Wednesday, May 18, 2011 | 44 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 139 / P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text INQ to 2899 for Globe or Smart

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LANCED NEWS. FEARLESS

SONGKOLAN 'DAY' Whoever she is, the unidentified woman seems to be enjoying her date President Aquino and the reunion concert of the 1970s Manila band on the Dusit Thani hotel on Monday night. The President arrived at the hotel with former Sec. Mar Roxas, and several government officials from the so-called 'Balay' group. They refuse to name the girl.

P-Noy dates mystery lady at Hotdog gig

By Pholbert Cariaso
and Christine Avendaño

THE CONCERT wouldn't start without the President and when he finally came, he had a surprise with him: a new date who a concert promoter said comes "from Cebu."

Aides of President Aquino refused to identify the woman, with a source close to the President saying this was to give "romance a chance to blossom."

The country's most eligible bachelor
PAGES A2

NFA lost ₱100B in 10 years–COA

Agency was buying high, selling low, storing long

By Leila B. Salaverria

HUGE rice imports and a policy of buying high, selling low and storing long have resulted in the National Food Authority (NFA) losing more than P100 billion in a span of 10 years, the Commission on Audit (COA) said.

In a 2009 report on the NFA, which was released recently, the COA said the agency's clearest losses happened despite government subsidies.

The audit agency said proceeds from the NFA's sale of rice and collection of fees were not enough for its operations, prompting it to resort to borrowings for finance operations and pay obligations.

The COA wondered how the NFA could continue to operate without any support from the government.

"Well, NFA's increasing liabilities and big losses, are clouds the capability of NFA to pay its debts and continue its operation without intervention from the national government," it said.

The NFA is tasked with maintaining a buffer stock of rice for the country in times of calamities and emergencies.

NFA, A10

NFA Central Visayas backs 8 Cebuano rice traders / A12

KNOCKOUT POWER Suranged Rep. Manny Pacquiao poses with leaders of the Catholic Church during a news conference at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in Manila on Tuesday. At left is CBCP president Bishop Nereo Odchimar. World boxing champ Pacquiao has publicly come out swinging against the reproductive health bill now pending in Congress, which the Church strongly opposes.

Pacman Church poster boy vs RH bill

By Jaclyn R. Uy
and Christian V. Esguerra

BOXING champion Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao avoided the question like a left hook coming from his debonair Mexican challenger Shane Mosley.

Asked yesterday how he would vote only hours after speaking the growth of Church family amid a published report that the latter was using birth control pills, the Sarangani lawmaker replied in a Filipino: "You know, in reality, even if the RH (reproductive health) bill has not yet been passed, many people are already using condoms or [birth pills]. So why do we still need to pass it when people are already using them?"

Wearing a dark blue suit and a purple tie, Pacquiao huddled with officials of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to

PACMAN, A12

JPE files bill, Bidoen Child Act of 2011 / A17

Lozada: GMA wanted $329-M deal for Abalos

By Leila B. Salaverria

WITNESS Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada yesterday testified that then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had told Romulo Neri to give the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project to Chin Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr.

Lozada made the statement in a handwritten memo in the course of being grilled by Abalos' lawyer, Lilibeth Villareal, on his role in the project to digitally connect government agencies nationwide, part to lady on his request to Abalos to see the latter's purported role.

LOZADA, A4

From $3,000 hotel suite to small jail cell

NEW YORK—In a dramatic fall from grace, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn headed down at New York's notorious Rikers Island jail on Monday night after he was charged with raping a hotel maid.

Separated from other inmates for his own safety, Strauss-Kahn was put in a bare 3.3-by-9-meter cell and given basic bedding, a drinking cup, soap, shampoo and toothpaste as other arraignees emerged that he had engaged in a pattern of sexual assaults dating to at least 2002.

Unlike most prisoners, Strauss-Kahn will not all of his meals alone.

Three nights earlier, Strauss-Kahn slept in a luxurious $3,000-a-day suite at Sofitel hotel near Times Square complete with conference room, living room, marble bathroom and a bedroom with a king-sized bed and flush-et-and-down doors.

FROM CLAIRE A. H.

French cop bolt in keeping sexcapades secret / A15

'Terminator' sired child with household staff

LOS ANGELES—Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has acknowledged that he fathered a child with a member of his household staff, a revelation that apparently prompted wife Maria Shriver to leave the couple's home before they announced their separation last week.

Schwarzenegger and Shriver jointly announced on May 9 that they were splitting up after 25 years of marriage.

Yes, Shriver moved out of the family's Brentwood mansion earlier in the year after Schwarzenegger acknowledged the child was his. The Los Angeles

TERMINATOR, A10

Rice overimported in last 3 years of GMA

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PHILIPPINE government overestimated the yearly rice consumption by seven Filipinos, leading to overimportation in the last three years of the Arroyo administration.

An audit team tapped by the National Food Authority (NFA) to review its rice importation program, data and issues said the agency's private sector estimates imports from 2008 to 2010 amounted to 2.6 million metric tons (MT) to "legalized smuggling" by favored groups.

SPECIAL REPORT

The private importers consisted of 10 groups from Pangasinan province and eight traders from Cebu province.

Where the interagency committee on the said white corn

RICE, A2

NEWS
Car dealer's black book 'useless' / A2

BUSINESS
Train line to connect Naia 3, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City / B1

NEWS
Carpio-Morales accepts nomination for Ombudsman / A4

MOTORING
Maico Buncio: Gone too soon / E2-1

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Northeastern
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Metro
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga
Iloilo	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro
Kalibo	Partly Cloudy	Davao

Source: Weather Bureau

Second FRONTPAGE

2-2-7: 25 37 | 24 15 | 29 8

QUEZON PES: 6 6 4 | 1 9 4 | 8 9 7

SIX DIGIT: 3 8 3 4 1 2

GRAND LOTTO 6/55: 7 19 21 29 30 32

P3,115,269.00

SUPER LOTTO 6/49: 12 14 16 19 23 24

P16,000,000.00

Car dealer's black book 'useless'

By Cynthia D. Balana

ALLEGED vehicle smuggler Lynard Allan Bigcas' black book which contains the names of government officials, military men and others cannot be used as evidence against them, Bicos Norte Rep. Rodolfo Farinas said yesterday.

"Wala yan (It's nothing)," Farinas, a lawyer, said of the black book. "It's just news worthy for him. You have to have other evidence."

Farinas, chair of the House subcommittee on customs and tariffs, said law enforcement authorities must come up with other evidence if they intended to go after the people listed in it.

"Like we lawyers say, that will be self-serving. It cannot be used as evidence against anyone, it serves Bigcas' interests as prepared solely by him. I can prepare a list of enemies and favorites and money that would not serve as evidence unless you have other evidence like if you find a gun or anything there," he said.

For now, Farinas said, Bigcas could only be held liable for violations of customs laws.

On Monday, Bigcas admitted during a House ways and means committee hearing that he had brought big and expensive items into the country by using the Diplomatic Clearance Facility (DCF) of the United States by "shopping" them up and dropping the parts in door-to-door habilitasyon bases. This allowed him to bypass customs inspection and duties.

But Bigcas insisted that he was not involved in the smuggling of vehicles or guns.

Among the names in the black book that were read out at the hearing were those of a Mayor Ali, Noah Dimaporo, Mayor Bimbit Dimaporo, a Governor Abubin, Bullet Adiojan, a Colonel Honorad and Boy Plaza.

Besides these names were figures in US dollars and Philippine pesos. Bigcas explained that the figures were price quotes of guns and not bribe money he from the United States by "shopping" them up and dropping the parts in door-to-door habilitasyon bases. This allowed him to bypass customs inspection and duties.

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The persons asked him to look up for them since he lived in Texas.

"There are many gun stores in Texas so I just call them up and ask the prices for my friends," he told the hearing.

Farinas said in an interview on ANC yesterday that there were more names in the book but the congressmen did not want to reveal them prematurely and warn the personalities mentioned.

"They would be able to come up with alibis," he said.

The National Bureau of Investigation earlier said that 11 of the 27 vehicles seized in raids on Bigcas' garages in Cagayan de Oro City and Bukidnon had been traced to the US as reported to it by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Bigcas said he believed the vehicles had come from legal sources, but was why he even posted pictures of some of them on Facebook.

A party-list congressman, meanwhile, challenged Bigcas to identify the persons listed in his black book in order to end speculations.

Citizens Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC) Rep. Ilocos Yagna said: "He must not be told, it is the inevitable next step. There is no way out of it if Mr. Bigcas does not want unsubstantiated allegations to linger and winding investigation that will be launched and succeed at by millions of Filipinos."

Yagna said Bigcas should not pursue public officials who may be involved in any conspiracies.

"Lawmakers should be law makers and not law breakers. This is a very basic and very elementary principle in law and public service so if Mr. Bigcas has names that he will reveal, silly have to name anyway, why wait to be told, why the suspense and probing everybody's agony and curiosity," Bigcas said.

SC aspirants face interview today

By Michael Rainsy

A COURT of Appeals justice who authored the controversial ruling absolving Sen. Panfilo Lacson of complicity in the Dacer-Corbito rub-out murders, along with six other aspirants seeking to join the Supreme Court, are set to face a tough public grilling today by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).

Associate Justice Ramon Paje is said the others in the first batch of applicants to the seven to be vetted seats in the high court, will be appearing in a public interview to be conducted by the eight members of the JBC panel, said SC deputy spokesperson Ma. Victoria Clemente-Guerra.

Guerra urged the public to actively participate in the process in select replacements for Associate Justices Conchita Carpio-Morales and Antonio Eduardo Nachura, who will be retiring next month.

"The interview session will be open to the public. It's the responsibility of every Filipino to be aware of the appointment for this very sensitive post," Guerra said.

Q and A

Expected to show up at the question-and-answer session, aside from Bato, are Court of Appeals Associate Justices Edgardo Carpio Morales, Apolinario Bruselas Jr., Noel Tijam, Romeo Callejo, Sr., Normandie Pizarro and Stephen Cruz; Sereno Tristan Catalil; and Court of Tax Appeals Associate Justice Juanito Castañeda Jr.

The second and third batches of applicants will be interviewed on Thursday and Friday, respectively, according to Guerra.

The JBC, headed by Chief Justice Renato Corona as ex-officio chair, has announced that 25 individuals, mostly appellate court justices, had signified their desire to join the high court.

But only 16 of the applicants were asked to attend the public interview since the others had already undergone the same process shortly after the retirement of former Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

Corona was chosen by former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to succeed Puno, in objection from various parties, including President Aquino.

Dacer-Corbito paranoia

Mr. Aquino eventually appointed Associate Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno to the vacancy created by Corona's appointment, becoming the President's **first appointee to the high court.**

A member of the appellate court's Special 16th Division, Reyes penned the decision that threw out the murder charges against Lacson in connection with the 2000 killing of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

In the Feb. 3 decision, Reyes took notice of primary government witness Gerar Mancao's "propensity to contradict himself under oath."

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ISUZU 6WE WATER TANKER
ISUZU 6WE FUEL TANKER
ISUZU 6WE CRANE TRUCK
ISUZU 6WE BOOM TRUCK
ISUZU 6WE MANLIFT

Driver of bus that killed journalist-prof sends surrender feelers

THE DRIVER of the bus that rammed into a taxi, killing journalist Leuchia "Chit" Sandia-Esteban last week, has sent surrender feelers, a police official said.

Supt. Arnold Santiago Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement Group said bus driver Daniel Espinosa, 31, had sent the message through his relatives.

"I believe he is here in Metro Manila because his brother is in touch with him and convincing him to give himself up to the police and shed light on the incident," Santiago told Inquirer in a phone interview.

Espinosa was allegedly the driver of the Universal Guiding Star bus which slammed into the rear of the taxi Sandia-Esteban was riding in at 6 p.m. last Friday along Commonwealth Avenue in front of the UP-Ayala Technohub. The taxi driver survived.

Police filed a complaint of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide against Espinosa before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Students of Sandia-Esteban at the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communications (UPCMC) held a tribute for the late professor on Monday night.

"I'm praying, like everyone else, whose life she's touched, that the bus driver finally outface and face the consequences...We hope her demise will become a catalyst for more reforms in traffic law enforcement and perhaps heavier penalties for violators," said Mark Meverson, who was one of Sandia-Esteban's thesis advisers.

Erika Gallego, a UPC graduate and now a law student, called on Malacañang and the Metro Manila Development Authority to give priority to traffic rules and regulations. "It seems that even in death, Ma'am Chit still managed to forward a cause long overdue," she said. Reports from Nancy C. Carvajal and Julie Aurelio

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Carpio-Morales accepts nomination as Ombudsman

By Nikko Dizon

MANDAUE Court Justice Associate Justice Conchita Carpio Morales has accepted her nomination for the Ombudsman post, according to the high court's Public Information Office said yesterday.

Carpio-Morales, who will be retiring from the bench on June 19, is one of about two dozen other hopefuls.

She was nominated by retired Judge Leticia Herrera, president of the Women Lawyers Association of the Philippines (WLAP) and by Ibeda Fajardo, president of the UP Law Alumni Association Class 1965.

Her nomination was also endorsed by retired Judge Dolores Espaldon of Tarlac-Gerona Investment Phils. and Sandiganbayan Justice Alex Quiroz.

There is a quiet scramble to succeed Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez who resigned on April 29, a week before she was set to face an impeachment trial at the Senate.

Carpio-Morales is reportedly favored for the post by Malacañang although the Palace has neither welcomed nor decried the report.

President Aquino chose Carpio-Morales to administer his oath of office last June 30, snubbing Chief Justice Renato Corona because he was appointed by former President now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

An unofficial list of nominees from the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) showed the following as having accepted their nominations: Frankenstein Ebarra, a former solicitor general; De La Salle Law School Dean Jose Manuel Diokno, dean of the De La Salle Law School; Junior Undersecretary Leah Armamento; Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Pelagio Apostol; deputy ombudsman for the Visayas; former junior undersecretary Jose Calida; former justice secretary Antonio Eduardo Nachura; Ray Roberto, a former ambassador; and lawyers Marlen Manuel, Howard Calleja and Francis Francisco, Jr.

Former Chief Justice Reynato Puno, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, and human rights lawyer Amy Lusindo declined their nominations.

The JBC, headed by the Chief Justice, which is tasked to screen applicants to the judiciary and the Office of the Ombudsman, will meet on May 23. It has yet to publish the official list of nominees for the Ombudsman post.

Motorists hit ₱20 toll for use of Luisita road

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO... Motorists using the Macarthur Highway-Tarlac City Interchange of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) for would surrender the collection of a ₱20 fee when they take the Barangay-San Miguel access road in the rapid vicinity in Tarlac.

Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI), which is owned by relatives of President Aquino, to-ensure sovereign through a undivided toll access near the Luisita Industrial Park, a source told the business.

"We're made to pay whether we get to or out of the San Miguel access road to and from the SCTEx in Luisita," another source said in a text message.

Lawyer Arnel Casanova, president of the state-owned Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), owner of the SCTEx project, said the road is supposed to be open to everyone since the HLI consented to build an access road toward the interchange.

For public use

The road leads from the Macarthur Highway in Tarlac City. Its total length is 7.6 km, BCDA data showed. Toll from SCTEx to Mabalacat, Pampanga, to the Luisita exit is ₱80.

"The public should have free access. It's for public use. It's supposed to be an open road," Casanova said by telephone on Tuesday. "The idea is to enhance economic activities in the area."

Casanova could not say if the HLI has obtained an authority to collect toll from the Toll Regulatory Board.

He said the BCDA has written the HLI to clarify the issue.

The BCDA, he said, did not authorize the HLI to collect fees for the use of the access road.

Casanova said the BCDA has dealt with HLI on a "professional basis." He said he is aware that Mr. Aquino is a minority owner of HLI.

The estate is owned by the family of Jose Cojuangco Jr. whose daughter, former President Corazon Aquino, is President Aquino's mother.

Private road

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., an uncle of the President, confirmed that HLI began collecting toll on the San Miguel access road.

"They can use other exits, like in La Paz and Concepcion [towns in Tarlac," Cojuangco said by telephone.

The ₱20 fee, he said, is for the road's maintenance. "It's a private road. It's not covered by the right-of-way (ROW)," he said.

The cost of ROW in the SCTEx project was the subject of a Senate investigation before the May 2010 elections. No overpricing was found.

Cojuangco said the road needs to be maintained because some 4,000 vehicles pass through it every day. Some sections of the road need of repairs or accidents could be avoided, he said.

PH ties with Libya still 'workable'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has described as "workable" the country's diplomatic relations with rebellion-torn Libya.

The Philippine government "abides by the United Nations Security Council resolution which authorized the members of an strikes" against the regime of Moammar Gadhafi "in order to avert grave humanitarian crisis" in the north African state, according to Foreign Assistant Secretary Esteban Molaya, also DFA spokesperson.

But at the same time the Philippines maintains relations with the Libyan government.

"Maintaining relations with the government in Tripoli has allowed us to [to] be able to evacuate our remaining [overseas Filipino workers] in Libya," Molaya told the Inquirer.

The DFA said less than 3,000 OFWs—mainly nurses and their dependents—have opted to remain in Libya. As of yesterday a total of 9,004 OFWs who fled Libya have returned to the country.

Molaya, also the ambassador-designate for Malaysia, noted "the government remains in contact with and continues to engage the Libyan government."

"The Libyan Embassy [in Makati City] has been very accommodating in our visa requests for the secretary during his travels in Libya."

Impeach case against SC justice on tap today

THE COMMITTEE on justice of the House of Representatives will decide today if the impeachment complaint filed late last year by 11 congressmen against Supreme Court Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo for plausible sufficient to [illegible].

Bayan Muna Rep. Rodolfo Farifias, committee vice chair, said the committee could not ignore the big number of complainants.

He said that he personally believed that the complaint was sufficient in form, especially when compared to the earlier impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez.

Complaint filing

He noted that the complaint against Gutierrez was filed by two party-list groups and endorsed by three congressmen, while the complaint against Del Castillo was filed by a number of congressmen, that was more than 1/3 per cent of the one-third vote required for transmittal approval.

He said the committee would tackle the complaint against Del Castillo first after he decided not to settle for now his plea to file an impeachment complaint against seven of other Supreme Court justices for their issuance of a status quo ante order that derailed the committee's impeachment hearings against Gutierrez.

Gutierrez, however, was subsequently impeached and made to go out trial in the Senate when she resigned.

Allegations

The impeachment complaint against Del Castillo contained four allegations that he plagiarized foreign court decisions in his ruling in the case of contract workers' recruitment agency Philippine Transmarine Carriers Inc. and its owner Jesus Ongsip.

Del Castillo cited the Philippine Transmarine Carriers Inc. case in his ponencia that upheld the constitutionality of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration fees imposed on overseas workers.

Rodolfo Pago, Del Castillo Jr., committee chair, said the complaint against Del Castillo did not require [illegible]

During the committee hearing yesterday members approved two bills, namely, the Wrongful Seizures Act and the proposed amendments to the Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991.

Cynthia D. Rodavia

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No word yet on Binay 'survey'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

BARELY two weeks before he submits his recommendations to President Aquino, Vice President Jejomar Binay has yet to get the opinion of lawmakers and the country's 1,180 political parties on whether the ousted dictator's widowed Marcos should be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The Office of the Vice President patiently said "senators and lawmakers have not sent their official responses to the survey conducted by the OVP's Ahbong Kusme have already expressed their opinion through the media."

It also said "some of the 1,180 parties accredited by the Commission on Elections has replied to the OVP's letter seeking their official stand on the issue."

Binay's office said it would "still wait for the official stand of the political parties until this week."

So far, the OVP has obtained "replies from three (3) groups, as well as 2,755 text messages and 1,870 e-mails from Filipinos around the globe." It did not name the text organizations.

Binay, also hosting exit and Presidential Advisory on OFW Concerns, had said he would submit his recommendations to the President on the "first week of June."

Last month, the OIC sent out dozens of letters seeking the opinion of various groups and decision-makers on the Marcos burial issue. It also launched a text and e-mail survey to encourage public participation on the matter.

It said Binay wanted to consult "as many people as possible" before he gave PNoy Aquino his recommendations on the best course of action.

The son of the late President Corazon Aquino and martyred Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., foes of Marcos's greatest political duel, the President imbibed himself from making a public stand, citing personal bias, and asked Binay to help him decide.

The burial of Marcos, whose body is said to be preserved in a refrigerated crypt in Batac, Ilocos Norte, is a divisive issue in the country, whose memories of the oppressive martial law years remain fresh.

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Massacre handling drags Aquino rating down –SWS

PUBLIC satisfaction with the way the Aquino administration is handling the Maguindanao massacre case plummeted in March, according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

The administration's net satisfaction score with regard to the massacre fell to a "poor" minus 19, down 14 points from the "neutral" minus 5 recorded last November, said the SWS survey which was first published in Business World last Tuesday.

Net satisfaction fell in all areas, most notably in Luzon outside metro Manila, where it fell by 21 points from a "neutral" plus 3 to a "poor" minus 18 in March.

Tea dew

There was at least respondents (75 percent) said the current pace of the case was "too slow," but a near majority (47 percent) believed that the administration was treating the Ampatuan family and their ex-accused "just right".

The SWS considers a rating of 70 and above "excellent"; 50 to 69, "very good"; 30 to 49, "good"; 10 to 29, "moderate"; 9 to minus 9, "neutral"; minus 10 to minus 29, "poor"; minus 30 to minus 49, "bad"; minus 50 to minus 69, "very bad"; and minus 70 and below, "miserable."

The SWS polled 1,200 representative adults from March 4 to 7, with an error margin of plus-or-minus three percentage points.

More than half, or 51 percent, said they were dissatisfied with the way the Aquino government is being run, up from 44 percent in November. Those who expressed satisfaction fell from 41 percent to 32 percent, while those undecided rose from 12 percent to 16 percent.

The case was being followed "somewhat closely/very closely" by 67 percent, slightly lower than the 70 percent recorded in September and November 2009 said.

Regarding the pace of the massacre case, 21 percent said it was moving "at the right pace" while 6 percent said the government was "not much in a hurry".

Some 39 percent said the government was being "too lenient" with the people arrested in the massacre and 13 percent said it was being "too harsh".

Worst election violence

The Maguindanao massacre on Nov. 23, 2009, is considered to be the worst election-related crime in recent Philippine history. The main suspects are members of the powerful Ampatuan clan who allegedly sought to stop a political rival, Esmael Mangudadatu, from running for governor of Maguindanao.

The 57 victims included relatives and supporters of Mangudadatu, who were on their way to the Commission on Elections to file his candidacy papers, as well as at least 30 local journalists who traveled to the convoy.

(Although the death toll is officially 57, a 32nd journalist, Reynaldo Momay, is believed to have been killed as well. The suspects are being prosecuted for only 57 murders, because the journalist's body remains missing.)

Primary suspect Andal Ampatuan Jr. and 195 others have been charged with murder in connection with the massacre.

By geographical area, net satisfaction fell by 18 points to a "poor" minus 23 in the Visayas and stayed "poor" in Mindanao (down to minus 20 from minus 33), as well as in Metro Manila (down to minus 18 from minus 16).

Economic classes

By economic classes, net satisfaction fell by 16 points among class D (down to "poor" minus 21 from "neutral" minus 5), 13 points among class E (down to "poor" minus 12 from "neutral" plus 1), and nine points among classes ABC (down to "bad" minus 37 from a "poor" minus 28).

Regarding the pace of the massacre case, 81 percent in Metro Manila, 70 percent in the Visayas, 75 percent in Mindanao, and 70 percent in Mindanao said it was "too slow."

By socio-economic class, 91 percent of classes ABC, 76 percent of class D and 82 percent of class E said the case was moving too slow. Inquirer Research

Corrections

IN THE MAY 5 ISSUE, a subhead of a story on the Second Front Page—"The Butcher faces torture rape"—misspelled the surname of a retired general. The second general is Jovito Palparan—not Palaparan.—Ed.

IN THE MAY 8 ISSUE, an article in the Sun. Sports section—"Pacquiao retirement not on the horizon"—misspelled the surname of a Filipino boxer. The boxer's name is Manny Pacquiao—not Pacquio.

IN THE MAY 12 ISSUE, an item in the Sunday Inquirer Lifestyle section—"Trial of ex-diva gay for murder a go"—misspelled the surname of an associate justice of the Court of Appeals. The associate justice is Danilo Pine—not Pinero.

IN THE MAY 14 ISSUE, a front page article—"DBM chief arrested on 11 charges"—misspelled the surname of the managing director of the International Monetary Fund. The IMF managing director is Dominique Strauss-Kahn—not Strauss-Ruhn.

IN THE MAY 17 ISSUE, the Internet photo carried an erroneous phone credit. It should have read, "Photo by Toppit!"—not "Converted Photo."

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P-Noy dates mystery lady at Hotdog reunion gig

From page A1

and his female companion arrived together to watch the Hotdog's reunion concert on Monday night at the ballroom of David Tiaoqui Hotel in Makati City.

Those who had a close look at the pair described her as having oval-face features similar to those of Shalani Soledad, the President's former girlfriend.

"They have been friends for sometime now and just renewed their acquaintance recently," the source said, adding that the 51-year-old Mr. Aquino and his tablemates had separate entrance "several times" before.

Stolen shots

It was the reconvening presidential chief of staff, former Sen. Mar Roxas, who brought the friends for the 24 people who occupied the three tables reserved for the President and his group, according to promoters.

Among those at the presidential table were Budget Secretary Florencio Abad and wife Baliwen Yap, Hermenia Abad, Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras and wife Marilou, Oscar Orbos Regalado of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and wife Maria Teresa Socorro, and Roxas.

Roxas came without wife Korina Sanchez, who reportedly had just returned the casino day from a trip to Korea.

Judging from their smiles and occasional talk, Mr. Aquino and his date seemed to have enjoyed the show—entertained by the raucous photographers, who could be heard asking the President to pose for shots with them.

Mr. Aquino's bodyguards, who kept cautioning to him to from his cameras elsewhere.

Roxas' idea

It was Roxas' idea to attend the Hotdog reunion concert, said Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang.

Carandang, who sat a table behind the President, said he thought "they all had a good time."

Asked by Malacañang reporters about Mr. Aquino's companions, Carandang said: "I don't know who else was [illegible]

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obviously acquainted with the singers of Song Weapon and Rene Alexandrino."

Carandang said he did not hear the chanson to meet or talk with her.

Media interest

Previously, Mr. Aquino had been reported dating his stylist, socialite Lia Ty, and actor-stockbroker Lee Lopez.

President Aquino's love life has been a subject of media interest since he assumed the presidency 10 months ago. Media interest grew after he split up with former girlfriend and now television comedienne Kristel Shalani Soledad, a councilor in Valenzuela City.

The President had been open to the media about going out with Ty but later clammed up and asked journalists to refrain from reporting about his love life.

Old times

Zendaya, the lanzol entertaining old times with Hotdog's main lamad na entertainers Anjanette Abayari.

But a few fans of the benchmark incredulous to see Joey Albert of The Hey Friends playing guitar at a gig whose audience had packed nothing but Hotdog tunes.

Albert's antics sang two Boyfriends hits, "Bahid Mahal Kita" and "Kara Kong Bilisan mga Mo."

Thirty years ago that would have provoked howls of dissolving laughter — since Hotdog had parodied the Bee Gees chore music of The Boyfriends and another group, VST, in the song "Medyacion."

It was for canalization, Hotdog bassist and main songwriter Rene Garcia told the reunion crowds before the show. Alcantara had been abroad for many years and wanted to play some gigs, Garcia said.

Unsettling moments

When ten-hosed reporters were given the spotlight with talk-overtures in Journey's "Don't Stop Believing" and Guns 'N Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine," there were looks of disbelief among this crowd.

Things became so disorienting there was nothing left to do but laugh—even as the performers were warmly applauded later on for their, err, talents in aping foreign acts.

There were more unsettling moments. Hotdog guitarist-vocalist Rene Garcia calling Boxer "BJ" Jacinto, who was seated at a table with his wife, to join onstage.

A bar encounter Jacinto to play one of his original songs, "Multo," but Garcia had already announced another cover, Richie Kalaw's "La Bamba."

Jazz singer Arthur Warenberg, a latter-day Hotdog member, was also called onstage and sang "To Love Somebody"—Michael Bolton-style. He was obviously staging a comic act, although he couldn't hide the power of his vocals and almost stole the show.

Two of the backup vocalists were so-called again, this time to sing "The Prayer."

The dinner-concert that also received hosting and toast salvo wishes had transformed into a "chopsuey" gig.

"It's open mic time," commented somebody in the audience, re-

WHERE'S KORINA? Former Sen. Mar Roxas dances to "Wipeout" with an unidentified woman. It was Hotdog's finale and most applauded number.

turning to the unfolding free-for-all repertoire.

No dance for Noynoy

The mock-mosh attempts to present a fun concert hit its lowest point when three backup singers mimicked Hagibis' "Kilometro," only to segue to Bangay singing group Chernoh's "Salad Fingers," a long-forgotten novelty tune incidentally written by Hotdog.

Such the obviousness to save the hard-to-hear, it succeeded. When the first lyrics of "Manila" were heard, the crowd broke into loud cheers.

Roxas was seen egging Mr. Aquino and his date to dance, but the couple begged off—letting Roxas himself to oblige where a woman in the audience mailed him to get up and groove to the music.

Before the last songs was played, Mr. Aquino was seen leaving with his date. He was stopped at the door by a group of friends for some photos. His lady friend walked fast ahead of him.

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Time to rethink your position, PNP chief tells communist 'friends'

By DJ Yap

DAGMG a more conciliatory tone, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has asked "our friends in the communist movement" to rethink their positions and consider laying down their arms following a series of costly skirmishes by the communist New People's Army (NPA).

"Perhaps this is the time for our friends in the communist movement to take a second look at their position," PNP chief Director General Raul M. Bacalzo said in a speech before Cagayan Valley troops on Monday.

"Maybe it's time to think that we can't borrow be killing each other. Both sides get wounded or killed. Every we (the police) get wounded or killed also," he said.

"Perhaps this is the opportunity to rethink their position and return to the mainstream and continue the peace. This will eventually lead to the development of the nation," Bacalzo said.

Virtually paralyzed

The PNP chief said the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been virtually paralyzed in Cagayan Valley following the killing of five NPA members, including a local leader, and the arrest of four others last week.

"Definitely, the NPA has been crippled" after its clash with police commandos along the boundaries of Dumagat Lakambini, Tuao, and Brgy Dalaguiray of Barangay Sta. Domingo in Pinit, Cagayan, Bacalzo said.

Among those killed was local communist guerilla leader Jose Asco, alias Baylon, who has been tagged as a primary suspect in the ambush killing of a police official in Cagayan province early this year.

Bacalzo's visit was intended to boost troops' morale after intruders members were wounded during the encounter in Tuao on May 12.

Since January, the NPA has apparently been stepping up its activities in the province, Bacalzo said.

"For I'm not saying this to panic time. This is not. The situation is very manageable. We hope we are sending this because of ongoing exploratory peace talks with the GPH-NDF and RDP (National Democratic Front)," he said.

Bacalzo noted that there is always a resurgence of NPA activities during exploratory talks or whenever there was a development in the peace process.

"So I always say, we at the PNP must be prepared at all times. There should really be vigilance every time. We can see that in the actions of our police force," he said.

The government resumed peace talks with the communist rebels in February after a seven-year lull and both sides said after the first round of negotiations they believed a peace pact could be signed by June 2012.

Bacalzo said the PNP was spending for the hospitalization of the four captured NPA rebels, three of them in Tuguegarao, and one in Lasuga.

PNP favors amending penal code

THE PHILIPPINE National Police supports the Department of Justice's review of the revised Penal Code that takes into account the latest technological advances and would designate the prescription period for crimes.

PNP Director General Raul M. Bacalzo cited the Visayan massacre as a reason for amending certain provisions of the code, particularly the 20-year period within which crimes punishable by life imprisonment may be prosecuted.

The DOJ has only until June 30 to complete its internal review of the Visayan massacre after those who were convicted, Ruben Ecleo and six others, were set free by the Supreme Court. The murder of three members of the Visayan family occurred in June 1991.

"For me, this is a wake-up call for us to have a new criminal law which is now being reviewed by [Justice] Secretary Leila de Lima. This was also President Aquino's idea when he was still a senator," Bacalzo said.

He also pointed out that when the Penal Code was enacted in 1930, there were no cellular phones and Internet that have spawned a whole new classification of cyber crimes.

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Ernesto Bacasmas Sr.; 79

ERNESTO Villamin Bacasmas Sr., father of Inquirer photographer Edwin Bacasmas, died on Monday, May 9, 79.

He is survived by his wife Rolinda Divinia Bacasmas and children, Edwin, Ernalie and Marina; Ygidia Mary and Sylvester Dejon Velasco Jr.; Edmon and Rolando, Elmer and Arlene, Edward and Norma Anne, Eugene and Valerie, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

His remains lie at their residence in Bonifer T. Ure, Santa Isabel, Albuquerque, Interment is the town's public cemetery will be on May 23.

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NAIA TERMINAL 1

Ceiling collapses on one of world's worst airports

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA International Airport Authority (MIAA) yesterday ordered its engineers to inspect the structural integrity of Ninoy Terminal 1 after a concrete ceiling plaster collapsed, injuring two employees.

Nora Terminal 1 manager Sarie Ibanista identified the victims as Nenson Reyes, 39, a baggage loader, and Phanepada Tyson, 42, a security officer of Tasha Air.

Reyes was reminded in the right ankle while Tyson suffered head injury. Both were taken to Makati Medical Center for treatment after they were given first aid at the airport, Ibanista said.

According to the airport official, the concrete ceiling plaster at the baggage build-up area collapsed at around 5:30 a.m.

At around 4 p.m. the fiber cement board of third level passport seat (unit 5 fell, damaging a service vehicle of Lufthansa Technic.

He said that Miaa general manager Jose Angel Honrado had immediately ordered the engineering department to inspect the terminal to prevent similar incidents in the future.

"Ngayon lang ito eh (this is)," Ibanista said of the 20-year-old terminal when asked what caused the ceiling collapse. "Perhaps (it) already showing signs of old age."

Hala, (particularly) Terminal 1, was rated one of the world's 10 worst airports and the worst in Asia for 2010 by an innovation website.

The ranking was based on reviews of air travelers who completed it, among others, "safety concerns, lack of comfortable seating, toilet stuff, hostile security, poor facilities, no [or few] services to pass the time, bribery, and general hassles of being in the airport."

Honrado said he expected the feedback from travelers, but added he hoped the general public would see the improvements at Naia.

"We are aware of the deficiencies. We really appreciate the comments and we're trying to correct those things. But please understand that this will take time," he said.

Following incoming complaints from passengers, Miaa has also started simplifying security processes inside Terminal 1.

Ibanista said "too much human intervention" in security procedure inside terminal Naia already have eliminated starting last Monday.

Security guards are no longer allowed to check the travel documents of passengers entering the terminal.

But Ibanista assured that streamlining the security process doesn't mean they are losing their guards down.

"Security remains tight; we would like to assure an improved passenger convenience but it doesn't mean we're sacrificing security," he said.

P5B for top performing LGUs

By DJ Yap

SOME 344 towns and cities receive benefit from half a billion pesos worth of fund subsidies this year for the construction of school buildings, roads and bridges, flood control facilities, and slaughterhouses, among other projects, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) said.

Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo said the P500 million performance Challenge Fund (PCF) would reward high performing local government units (LGUs) by financing their proposed local development projects.

"We hope that through the PCF, we will be able to motivate LGUs to further enhance their local governance systems and procedures and improve their services to their constituents," he said in a statement.

The PCF is a financial incentive awarded to qualified LGUs to start projects aligned with the national government's programs for the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, tourism and local economic development, disaster risk reduction and management and solid waste management.

Projects that may be financed include school buildings, rural health units, water and sanitation system, local roads and bridges, slaughterhouses, flood control, reforestation, post-harvest facilities and cold storage facilities.

Of the P500 million, Robredo said P300 million will go to fourth- to sixth-class municipalities, P70 million to fourth- to sixth-class cities and P112 million to fourth- to sixth-class provinces. The remaining P18 million will be allocated to highly income LGUs.

The PCF subsidy will amount to P1 million for each municipality P5 million for city and P7 million per province, he said.

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- First Tourism program in the Philippines to be recommended as Center of Development by CHEd Technical Panel
- First Accountancy Program in the Philippines to be granted Level 3 Reaccredited Status by PACUCOA
- First Tourism Program in the Philippines to be granted Level 3 Reaccredited Status by PACUCOA
- First Nursing Program in Region IV to be granted Level 3 Reaccredited Status by PACUCOA
- First HRM Program in Region IV to be granted Level 3 Reaccredited Status by PACUCOA
- First Marine Transportation Program in Region IV to be granted Level 3 Reaccredited Status by PACUCOA
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Taking the LEAD!

Aquino to visit Brunei May 31

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PRESIDENT Aquino's official visit to Sultan Hasanal Bolkiah—scheduled for May 31 to June 2—will give the Philippines a chance to further strengthen its bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario will, on May 30 the Brunei capital, where he will be met by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, that country's leader, and other top Brunei government officials.

During his meeting with Bolkiah, Del Rosario "announced the President's forthcoming trip to Brunei as an opportunity to further strengthen Philippines-Brunei relations," said Foreign Assistant Secretary Eduardo Malaya, also DFA spokesperson.

Del Rosario also reported to Bolkiah that the construction of the new chancery of the Philippine Embassy in the Brunei capital will be completed next month.

The building "symbolizes the country's long-term commitment in fostering relations with Brunei," according to Malaya.

Both the Philippines and Brunei are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

WED 18 | Wednesday
Psalter Week 4
John 1 a 4th Week of Easter
Pr 17:3-5, 7, 8 and 8

O God, let all the nations praise you!
I'm trembling: Ps 65: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6a

Meanwhile the word of God was increasing and spreading. Barnabas and Saul carried aid. Back in Antioch, they came back from Jerusalem, taking with them John also called Mark.

There were at Antioch—in the Church which was those—prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon known as Niger, Lucius of Cyrenaic, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod, and Saul. On one occasion while they were celebrating the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said to them, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saulus for the work for which I have called them." So, after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Then they, sent by the Holy Spirit, went down to the port of Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. Upon their arrival in Salamis they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogue. John was with them as an assistant.

Gospel: Jn 12:44-50

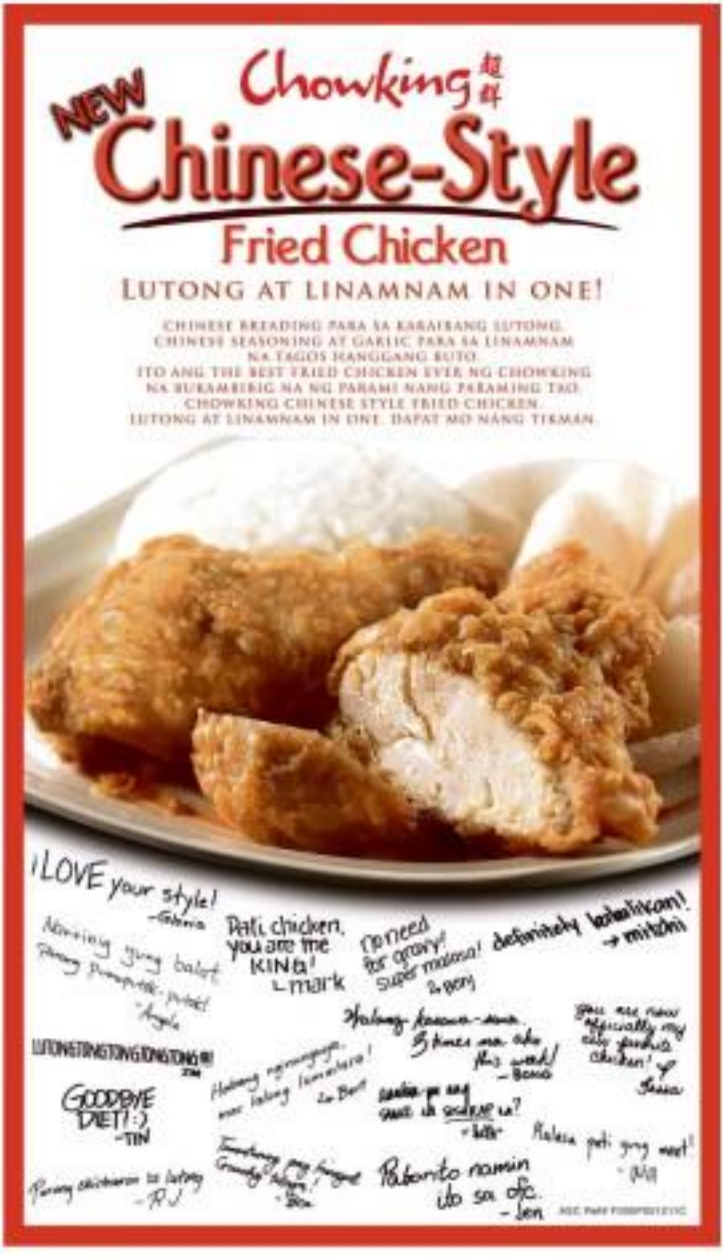
Jesus had said, and even cried out, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me, and whoever sees me, sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

"If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I am not the one to condemn him; for I have come not to condemn the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me, and does not receive my word, already has a judge: the very word I have spoken will condemn him on the last day.

"For I have not spoken on my own authority. The Father who sent me has instructed me in what to say and how to speak. I know that his commandment is eternal life. And that is why the messages I give, I give as the Father instructed me."

Reflection:

Hearing and believing, these are the two marks we need to look under which signifiers is to see Lord. Otherwise our judgment of belief will be empty and hollow. It will be bereft of substance and therefore prone to things at the slightest shift of circumstances surrounding our lives. We have the freedom to use our mother faculty in the World spoken in various ways. Thus we do not only need to have our physical listening skills but more of all, to have the sensitivity of spirit to discern the voice of God that could talk to us even in our silence. For the word is eternal life. We will miss much more than we could afford if we will let it pass unnoticed.



NFA Central Visayas backs 8 Cebuano rice traders

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU, 1ST—The National Food Authority (NFA) office in Central Visayas said the eight Cebuanos rice traders identified as among those involved in anomalous importation of rice from 2008 to 2010 were real rice traders.

"They are actually bona fide NFA retailers," said Lucy Bian, also the NFA information officer in Central Visayas.

Bian was referring to Salvegenia Vallejo, Cherry Balcobin, Esther Cabacungan, Jojo Dilando, Jovanne Tan, Celestial Sugarcane Corporation Secretary Dexter Tan and Elenita Ernesto Bacasa.

They were the eight rice traders mentioned in the Inquirer report on Tuesday about the participation of rice traders in the private sector financed (PSF) importation program that resulted in huge losses for the NFA.

Besides said the volume involved was 75,000 metric tons, far less intended for the entire Visayas, not only for Cebu.

"All of the supposed NFA importers, debts and losses said 16 traders, including eight from Cebu, were allowed to purchase a total of 200,000 MT through the agency last year.

Besides said the eight importers participated in the bidding in the 2009-2010 importation of the PSF program after having complied with the requirements and submitting the needed documents.

She could not confirm the actual volume of rice that was imported at the time.

Trader for 20 years

In a telephone interview on Tuesday, Marlyn Vallejo said she had been a rice trader for 20 years.

Mercury said she was involved in the rice importation but maintained that it was a legal transaction. However, she refused to comment further.

The number of Vallejo listed in the telephone directory just kept on ringing and nobody answered the phone after several calls.

Artificial shortages

In Davao City, Gabriela Rep. Luz Ilagan said the Inquirer report that government lost billions of pesos from rice importation during the previous administration confirmed what her group had long suspected. That then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo colluded artificial rice shortages.

"Now, the reports show there is basis for our suspicions," Ilagan said in a text message.

"The Hyatt 10 turned out not

From page A1

did certain importers who were allowed to amass profit at the expense of public interest," he said.

"Remember the time of rice rotting in the NFA bodegas because of Hyatt 10 deals? All the excess rice while the poor had been lining up to avail of rationed rice," Ilagan said. "These are the kinds of corruption that are unfolding now."

Prosecute perpetrators

Ilagan said the administration of President Aquino should go against the perpetrators by putting a case against them and holding public officials responsible. He cited the huge NFA losses.

"Don't let the same Hyatt 10 individuals run in a fix," she said, adding that people should always be vigilant to ensure that this will not happen again.

Davao City Councilor Leah Librado said the huge losses incurred and the alleged anomalies committed by officials of the government did not depend on media on rice imports.

She said the government should have mandated the country's vast agricultural resources and should have invested more in developing agricultural land instead of spending on media on imports.

"Such an incident showed the worsening corruption within the government, while the majority of the people are suffering from hunger and poverty," Librado said.

Bernadette Basilio, chair of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said the Inquirer report proved what his group had been saying.

The report, he said, only showed that some people were making money at the expense of other people.

Bidding in cut'l office

Filomeno Gangcoy, the NFA manager for Southern Mindanao, said the bidding and importation process was done at the national office.

"Importation of rice is a policy that is centralized. Even the bidding is open to all but with a nationwide character. There is no bidding on the regional level ... everything is done up there," Gangcoy said the Inquirer by phone.

He said Southern Mindanao became the destination of imported rice in 2008-2010 during which the supposed questionable importation by private firms took place.

"During at that time Inquirer cite of the dropping points of the imported rice. As to how many tons, I cannot tell right now," Gangcoy said. *With reports from Dorothea Lucero and Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*

Rice overimported in last 3 years of GMA administration

From page A1

headed by then Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, sure in 2009 to discuss the importation for 2010, an agreement was reached on the estimate of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) that the per capita consumption between 2008 and 2009 jumped 8.5 percent to 128.9 kilograms.

The committee also checked the BAS figure, the rice consumption figure for 2010 could have been adjusted to a more reasonable level of 120 kg a year. BAS' updated per capita consumption that is released in July 2010, the audit team said.

"This per capita difference of 8.8 kg multiplied by the projected 2010 population of 93.804 million would result to an overconsumption of MT for 2010 importation of 810,000 MT," said a report prepared by the three-member audit team.

Mismanaged inventories

The SAOs mismanaged inventories of warehouses, overcommercialization and surging rice prices, especially in 2008.

The report said there were months when the NFA stockpile was below the mandated buffer period.

"From January 2008 to July 2010, there were 27 out of 127 months (or 21 percent) where the SOA stocks were below 15 days. Moreover, these same stock-out occurrences were consecutive strings of 11 months (from February 2007 to April 2008) and 7 months (from Oct. 4 to April 5)," the report said.

The SAOs rice inventory beginning July also went beyond the maximized target of 30 days in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

FAO warning

The largest rice stock-out to 2007-2008 was recorded in that year, the time the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was issuing warnings on a possible food crisis and huge jumps in prices due to crop shortfalls, natural calamities and the global financial crisis.

Despite these warnings, the NFA did not act to ensure that the country had a sufficient rice buffer, allowing traders, who were waiting for news of the low supply of SFA rice, to increase prices in early 2008.

Data from the Department of Agriculture showed that the price of rice in 2007 hovered between P28 and P33 a kilo. In 2008, the retail price jumped to between P34 and P40 a kilo.

The audit price of well-milled rice averaged P36.57 a kilo in June 2008, up by 13.89 percent from the previous month's price and by 37.28 percent from the level in June 2007, according to the BAS.

Buying binge

Because of the global rice shortage in 2008 that affected supplies in the country, the NFA went on a buying binge the following year. SFA delivered to the Angeles Depot was sold locally. "The SFA overbought," he said.

The trading agency imported more rice, culminating in the 2.4 million MT delivery for 2010, where the NFA said was one of the highest rice importation volumes recorded.

This resulted in a supply glut that hurt not only NFA sales but also the prices of palay (unmilled rice) sold by farmers.

"The beginning July stock [in (2009) was overdone, i.e. in excess of 1.7 days over the 90-day optimum national carryover. This overhang in the market dampened NFA sales volume and likewise dampened palay prices during the harvest quarter harvest," the report said.

Corruption in the private sector importation, mistakes in consumption estimates, mismanagement of stocks and rice importation timing of rice purchases contributed to overpricing and the NFA's debts over the years, the report said.

P33.B overprice

The audit noted that in the past 10 years, the NFA bought rice way beyond the benchmarks issued by the SAO.

"From years 2000-2010, the total (overprice) against the benchmarks issued by the SAO was $734 million or an (overprice) of $66/MT on a total purchase tonnage of 11.8 million MT valued at $4.8 billion," the report said.

It said the last three years of the Arroyo administration were the biggest overprice of imported NFA rice, which averaged $125/MT, or more than double the average of $60/MT for the whole of 2000-2010.

P182.B loss

The cumulative overprice during the period was P32 billion, nearly 26 percent of the NFA's trading loss of P182 billion, the report said.

Most overprices extended to NFA loans and investments, causing huge debts and losses.

To be able to import rice, the agency borrowed heavily from government financial institutions like the Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines and Philippine Veterans Bank from 2001 to 2005. As of 2010, the NFA government-guaranteed debt stood at P176.6 billion, the report said.

Losses in state bonds

But the loans were not used for rice purchases alone. The audit report said the NFA invested P16.5 billion in government bonds but owing to seven years.

The report said the NFA had to borrow periodically to pay the interests for the loans without going to investors through the revenue from its investments in government bonds.

Before the bonds matured, the NFA sold them to Landbank. "It appears that NFA lost P1.3 billion in P1.3 billion from early investment on top of front-end fees to financial advisers," the report said.

It also noted that the liquidation of the NFA bonds led to the restructuring of loans, which more than doubled from P16.5 billion to P33 billion.

Padded arranger fees

The report said the NFA also overpaid the "arranger fees" that totaled P159 million to the Landbank and a private financier firm, ORIX Corporation Inc.

ORIX Corporation, also the Philippine adviser of the bankrupt Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor), was the arranger for NFA transactions with ORIX and Landbank and was paid "(1 percent for some loans."

The report said the payment was way beyond the ceiling set by the government that says the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) rule number.

"The BSP according to the report, said the NFA thus arranger has should "not exceed 1 percent but NFA actually paid 2 percent for some loans. By comparison, the transactions of banks that arranged P6Bn P10 billion long-term loans in 2009 charged only .0095 percent to arranger fee."

It was not the first time that ORIX Corporation, founded by Norberto Ong, was embroiled in a financial deal that turned out to be disadvantageous to the government.

ONG Corporation was the arranger of Quedancor's P5.1M-bat loan with Landbank in 2004 for which it was paid P300 million, the report said.

NFA lost P100B in 10 years–COA

From page A1

ining a sufficient rice reserve to prevent a shortage of the country's staple. It may pressure palay (unmilled rice) in the country to import rice.

From 2000 to 2009, net losses of the NFA amounted to P100.947 billion, while it received P33.986 billion in subsidy.

Biggest net loss

The SFA incurred its biggest net loss in 2008 when the country was faced with soaring rice prices amid a global grain shortage. It lost P32.208 billion that year.

The agency sold imported rice to the public at huge discounts.

In 2009, the NFA incurred its second biggest loss at P16.413 billion.

Its third biggest loss was incurred in 2006 (P15.876 billion), followed by 2003 (P6.661 billion), 2004 (P6.470 billion), 2005 (P5.121 billion), 2000 (P4.281 billion), 2002 (P4.123 billion), 2007 (P2.466 billion), and 2001 (P1.757 billion).

The COA recommended that the NFA do its best to maximize income and minimize expenses to reduce losses.

The audit agency also suggested that the NFA reimburse its claims and programs for the next five years.

Part of mandate

The SFA, for its part, told the COA that its policy of buying high, selling low and storing long—which is among the rice trading agency is opens it a loss—was part of its social mandate to help farmers and ensure the country's security and stability in its staple food.

The NFA said that aside from its losses from trading, it was losing money due to the interest costs accruing from insufficient subsidy from the government.

The NFA was allowed to borrow from financial institutions so that it could sustain its programs and ensure a buffer stock, the rice trading agency added.

The NFA also said it had negotiated with the government's economic managers to increase the subsidy and interest rates so that it could sustain its programs and ensure a buffer stock, the rice trading agency added.

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Spillage

The COA said that in 2009, the NFA lost 7.79 million kilos of rice due to short-landing spillage in unloading and transfer of stocks from one warehouse to another. The book value of the lost rice was placed at P105.51 million.

The losses were reported in eight regional offices, and the bulk of the loss was reported in Metro Manila.

Metro Manila lost 4.040 million tan kilos worth P4.04-587 million. This was followed by Region 5 which lost 1.05 million kilos worth P44.021 million.

Region 7 lost 1.086 million kilos worth P38.067 million; Region 11, 740,762 kilos worth P19.849 million; Region 4, 126,856 kilos worth P3.786 million; Region 9, 111,181 kilos worth P3.322 million; Region 10, 9,543 kilos worth P75,952; and the Caraga region, 12,219 kilos worth P370,486.

The COA also noted that the NFA could not recover the loss, because the supplier has become, based on the purchase contract, the bill of lading weight, the quality and condition of rice stocks and polypropylene bags and packing should be final as the part of loading as inspected and certified by the buyer's load

From page A1

post surveyor.

Claims against ships

The audit agency said the NFA should think of other remedies that would help it recover losses, such as intending the importhaser contracts. The rice agency should also file claims against the owner of the ships.

The NFA, for its part, said that its Metro Manila office had already filed a letter of protest to seek the settlement of short-landed deficiencies that have been shipping agents of the supplies.

It also said that it had begun a move to revise the contract in which the quantity, weight and quality would be considered final and at the destination, and to include ship owners who failed to deliver a big portion of the shipment.

But the NFA said that it would have to shell out more money for hiring a surveyor at the load-port and at the depot.

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Lozada: GMA wanted $329-M deal for Abalos

From page A1

mission from the deal to $61-million from $130-million.

Neri was then secretary general of the National Economic and Development Authority. Lozada was his technical adviser.

Neri and Abalos are awaiting trial in the Sandiganbayan on graft charges in connection with the broadcasted NBN deal.

Lozada said Arroyo, now the representative of Pampanga's second district, had wanted Abalos to get the deal. "The President has given instructions, as secretary Neri made me understand, that the project must be given to Chairman Abalos," he said.

As in other testimony before the antigraft court, Lozada said Abalos—who, he said, was working with the project proponent, ZTE Corp. of China—asked him to protect his $130-million commission in the project.

The deal with ZTE Corp. was eventually awarded to the lure of a public outcry over the alleged overpricing.

'Don't leave'

Saturday, Lozada said he had wanted to leave the project because of "personal problems," but that Neri told him not to do so in order to prevent the "theft" of the $130-million.

"Sabi niya, wag ka na umalis dyan. Pag umalis ka, kunin nya yun nonsecretary eh. Eh wala na, 'Bahala kayo sa project. If you do, they will be able to steal the whole amount'," he quoted Neri as telling him.

"Ni, that time, I accepted the logic of Neri," he added.

Justice Jose Hernandez asked Lozada if Neri meant that it was OK to steal as long as the government would still save money.

The witness said he did not agree with the way the statement was framed.

Lozada was also asked if he remembered why Neri did not just order coal to say that the project should be canceled because the government would lose money on it.

He replied, "That was one of the reasons I believe Secretary Neri and Mr. Abalos' [project proponent]."

Lozada also said Neri had told him of informing Arroyo about his (Neri's) being offered P200 million to approve the project. He said Ong, despite the information, "don't know personally that the project should still be approved.

'Permissible zone'

Lozada was also asked about his earlier testimony on a bizarre conversation featuring in which he referred to a "permissible zone" and a "forbidden zone" when it came to his moral psychology.

Villareal asked the witness if the alleged $65 million overprice in the NBN deal was within the "permissible zone."

Lozada said what he considered permissible was small percentages. He also said he and Neri could not do anything about the $65-million overprice.

Villareal then said Lozada had proposed the $65 million margin to the NBN proponents.

Still under questioning by Villareal, Lozada said Abalos had told him at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City that if the NBN deal would be approved, Abalos would allot P200 million for Neri.

Lozada quoted Abalos as saying that Neri would be unable the case of other people he was talking with, who would have to wait for the loan proceeds.

He said he told Abalos that he and Neri should be the one to talk about the deal, and Neri told about Abalos' affair, but said he could not recall Neri's reaction.

Villareal said that in an earlier testimony, Lozada claimed he could not recall any violent reaction from Neri.

The lawyer added that the significant testimony was the lack of any violent reaction.

Abalos has been charged in the Sandiganbayan in connection with his taking an interest in a project that was not related to his duties as Comelec chair.

South Rail project

Villareal also asked Lozada to confirm his earlier testimony that there was an overprice in the South Rail project, where he was the lead negotiator.

He asked whether Lozada did anything about it.

Lozada said he had reported the matter to Neri but that he could not recall exactly when.

Villareal also asked Lozada to confirm if he was acting as Neri's technical adviser even when he was working for the government as head of Philippine Forest Corp.

Lozada replied in the affirmative.

MURA MATIBAY MAGANDA
NAVARRO PATENTED SCHOOL CHAIR
"Solution is punishable by law"
A.C. NAVARRO PATENTED PRODUCTS

Sandigan asked to suspend proceedings vs Garcia

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE OFFICE of the Solicitor General (OSG) has asked the Sandiganbayan 2nd Division to suspend proceedings on the cases involving the recently approved plea bargain on the plunder case against former military comptroller Carlos Garcia.

The OSG said the anti-graft court would be filing a consolidated motion for reconsideration on three court resolutions: the approval of the plea bargain, denial of the OSG's motion for reconsideration, and denial of a motion for Dorothy Garcia, Garcia's daughter, to withdraw as witness in the case.

The 2nd Division is opposed to schedule Garcia's sentencing and the promulgation of the government's P303-million plunder case against him following the approval of the controversial plea bargain agreement.

Under the terms of the plea bargain, Garcia pleaded guilty to the lesser charges of direct bribery and facilitating money laundering and turned over to the government P135.432 million in cash.

The OSG earlier sought to intervene in the case so that it could contest the plea bargain, which it described as being disadvantageous to the government. It said that the plea bargain agreement was designed to favor Garcia and was not done to accordance with proper procedures. Its plea was denied.

Other critics of the deal also said it would derail efforts to fight corruption and would send the message that the big fish involved in corrupt practices could get away with it.

The OSG had also sought Sandoval's inhibition from the case since he was a member of the Sandiganbayan's special prosecutor's office. Sandoval, however, not involved in the Garcia case.

In denying the OSG's motion to intervene, the anti-graft court said that it had no standing to intervene in the case because the accused-turn-prosecution witness Senior Supt. Eduardo Gonbuyan Jr. with the Office of the Ombudsman.

It also said that despite the strong public opinion against the plea bargain, the court has to base its decision on facts, not because there was weak evidence against Garcia and this would have led to his acquittal without the plea bargain, it said.

The Sandiganbayan also said that it approved the plea bargain because Garcia had already complied with its provisions, and the court's concern is about preserving the interests of government lest already been addressed.

ISSN 0115-2042 INQUIRER Vol. XXXVI, No. 359

OPINION

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Corona's court

YESTERDAY, SUPREME Court Chief Justice Renato Corona marked one full year in office—a milestone he observed dutifully with, among other appointments in a busy week, a few revealing media interviews. His main purpose, as far as we can tell, was to reassure the general public that the Corona Court is both independent (not beholden to the previous president) and re-

EDITORIAL

sponsive (just about/sort-of/in its treatment of the policies and the politics of the current one). The Filipino people must know; Corona said, that "they have a Supreme Court they can trust."

That is a consummation devoutly to be wished but, as far as the judiciary is concerned, what does trust consist of? It consists entirely of doing justice, and being seen doing it.

Corona is merely right to say that "fifty jobs are to decide cases fairly, according to my conscience, the Constitution, the law. My personal feelings, emotions involved." But it is a measure of the distance Corona himself sees between the legitimacy of his appointment (something this newspaper together with many others in civil society argued against last year, but is now settled by Supreme Court fiat) and the legitimization of the criticism against his appointment that in marking his first year in office, he finds himself bringing "personal feelings, emotions" into the picture.

He talks of going the extra mile to accept the criticism with grace: "I have been called patient, ultra-forgiving and I think, ultra-Christian, in the way I have conducted myself. You should not be colon-skinned in a job like this." He dwells on the fundamental loneliness of high office: "When you are at the helm, you all of a sudden have to be sensitive to many things, like criticisms, demands for justice, the constituents think that you are [lacking] in your ity to improve on those areas. These responsibilities, there's no one to pass the buck onto. The buck stops here." He speaks of the existential dilemma of the poor and the aggrieved who reach out to him. "Where you read those letters from these people, it's the human side of you that takes over and it's not easy emotionally. Somehow, you empathize with them, their problems. There's no money, food, or justice."

He also detailed being personally very close to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whom he served in various times as presidential chief of staff, official spokesperson and acting executive secretary. Again the caustic explanation he offers for his first appointment as associate justice turns out to be neither politically divisive nor politically strategic, but only personal.

"... If I was really very close to her, I would not have asked to be appointed to the Supreme Court. I asked to move out of Malacañang"—because it was, he said, a snake pit.

The personal, even emotional answers are not entirely convincing. (The unflattering "snake pit" image, for instance, does not answer the question as to why he was appointed chief justice years after escaping the Palace.) But they are undersized them as not actually meant to convince but only to persuade, with the communitive language of sacrifice and forbearance and empathy. The message it, the man who will serve as chief justice until 2018, is no puppet after President Aquino leaves Malacañang, is a practicing Christian and a true gentleman, a patriot who, despite criticism, will do right by the public.

Except for a few words about how certain divisions of the Court could be construed as unfavorable to Arroyo, Corona did not really discuss his judicial philosophy, or explain why—to give only one example—he chose to fight Malacañang so aggressively on the judiciary's budget. (The assertiveness of the Corona Court was startling, because surely a mere budget proposal, even if it is that of the judicial branch, does not enjoy constitutional protection.) In other words, Corona's term has not all been passive, a patient taking of the Executive's blows. Also (to give a second example), the reasoning behind the junking of the Truth Commission is law devoid of human context—the very context Corona intervenes himself to when he reads those pained letters from the public.

Both the Aquino presidency and the public have had no choice but to come to a modus vivendi with the Corona Court. The Chief Justice's first anniversary interviews suggest that there may be a more responsive court in the future. And that is the salient formation. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

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Why are the prices of food rising?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST MONDAY'S rains at the Kapihan sa Manila at the Diamond Hotel were very important to Filipinos: education and food. The panelists were Antonio Contreras Tuviera M.C. Head of the Department of Education, and Ric M. Ilarca, executive director of the Philippine Association of Food Millers.

Why can't our graduates find jobs and why are the prices of food, specifically bread, rising? These are the questions uppermost in the minds of the people.

To the first question, the answer of Asec Umali was: Because our students spend too much time in school—and not because they're earning degrees or making "bahaba" but because the curriculum designed by the Department of Education is too short. Filipino students spend an average of 10 years to learn subjects—six years in elementary school and four years in high school—two or three years short of the international standard. Theoretically, a high school graduate should already be able to get a job. Umali said, but more often than not, years of college, he is not fit enough for work.

The Department is recommending that students no longer use more years of high school and is adding at least kindergarten before starting grade school as early as 1917. This is why children of parents families prefer early to attend. While children of middle-class families go to kindergarten before beginning Grade 1, children of poor families don't because of financial problems.

Many in the room have been pleased that education is a burden on poor families.

Public school is free, Umali replied. Aside from the nonexpropriation law and snacks, there is nothing more spend for. On the other hand, the students, after graduating from high school, will be better prepared to work or to go to college.

He are in a disadvantage compared to grads into first-class countries that have 12 or 13 years of basic education, Umali said. Aside from that, our students attend classes for only half the day, whereas in most countries they attend the sessions. "Our students are actually getting much less hours of schooling," he added.

I WAS dismayed the other week when I heard that P-Noy had appointed Jose Rizalas as his *chief of staff*. To me that I found it a little disturbing to so say that I found the nominee that has *chum* unlikely disqualifying.

It's a very bad idea. Here are several reasons.

The first, and most obvious, is what the media have already noticed upon, which is that it ups the ante on the family feud between the two camps in Malacañang, the so-called Binay and Roxas; that have been in status P-Noy was pre-Binay and Roxas after the election. And Rizalas was proclaimed here in them.

It threatens to split government, it's hasn't done so already. The public caught a glimpse of a last year during the hostage crisis, with the Binays opposing the action in its territory and Roxas forewent to his camps. In that case public actually within the DILG and the Commission team Group, the effect of which was to expose the President to hacks in the form of attacks from abroad with his people too immediately saving to shield him from it. I said then that you know what happen when a man's arms are tied cover-bones pulling in opposite directions: he is quite literally torn limb from limb. That was the first government seemed to have set for itself.

Roxas' appointment as chief of staff drives it to extreme, and almost, lengths. The comments were right: That brings Roxas and sign Ochoa, the various executive secretary into open confrontation. It thing that should point government to a halt. I am indeed in the image of two horses pulling in opposite directions: progress, war is apart. P-Noy wants Roxas, he should just like Ochoa. He wants Ochoa, he should just ignore Roxas, or appoint him ambassador to Timbuktu. Never the twain shall meet, or pass.

Having both of them or any things is a recipe for disaster.

The second reason is that Roxas will drive P-Noy's government into more steps detrimental than before. The original unraveling groups women's issues and hikes, it was the infrastructure and the politicians in P-Noy's campaign. For

reasons that are more apparent than the ways of heavens, P-Noy seems to have bought into and has a favorite' claim that they brought him to power. The same group that never rose he won the race presidential candidate, the same group that never grasped the power of Edsa, the same group that nearly cost him the election from the start.

Roxas certainly never did. To this day he not only refuses to see that he lost the vice presidency to Jejo Binay, he refuses to see that he lost the presidency to P-Noy. Then and now, Roxas never understood the campaign was fueled by Edsa, and paid the price for it. How could he? He was neither an activist nor a member of the Yellow Roxas then, and winning on the strength of Edsa would have meant he owed P-Noy and not the other way around. He exhibited his folly at the 15th hour, trailing blue but yet low to try to score things around, sins, too late.

All this bears tremendously on the direction of P-Noy's government. Strategic, P-Noy has still seven months to fully appreciate the power of People Power, and not only has not fulfilled, deeply confused it with his victory but has not sufficiently used it afterward. It's an awesome source of a previous gift. He is the only one who can summon People Power, none of his people can. Yet he has not harnessed it or encouraged it to use its power on his behalf. Instead, he has treated it or conscripted it to his war against wars. Though personally honest and well-meaning, his framework remains traditional, it's what his government can do for the people and not what the government can make the people do for themselves.

Roxas' official entrance into Malacañang—he has been there unofficially all this

Very bad idea

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

time—solidifies that framework and gives it a major spin. It puts government in the hands, or at the mercy of the Liberal Party rebels, despite its protestations to the contrary, is no longer on the rosa of them. There is an major thorn in the hands of an administration and in lack of vision now to spread out it, no allergy to films then and no allergy to films now is proof of it. With those there, expect government to devote its energies only to ensuring the conditions to make him president in 2016.

The worst to hold on to the spirit of reformation, short join government, join Grand Alliance.

This brings me to the third reason, which is that Roxas may have been too late to get things started and get rested into power but he certainly has been too early to get started into power. With his very cagey prospects for the country. You have a president who is on hand-hand and regards power as a burden, quite apart from an opportunity, and you have a chief of staff who is an aggressive and ambitious one. Roxas is not going to have anything to do with the presidency as long as P-Noy is there, and P-Noy is not going to have anything to do with Roxas as long as Roxas is there.

The campaign already showed that though Roxas was willing to become second fiddle in theory, he would willingly become second fiddle in practice. He himself believed he made a mistake accepting, doom when he was leading the way presidential race and Binay's numbers were falling down, forgetting that his presidential bid was never any more than a ploy to serve his ex-wife P-Noy further losing was the constitutional ban on losers getting a post in government until after a year has elapsed. Now, going all the way to Washington last year as part of the presidential entourage and passing himself off as the OIC as a member of the official delegation, is adds about new dimensions to aggrandizement. Again, the reasons that are most mysterious that God's ways, Binay said's seem to say no to him.

The way things are, Roxas might not even have to wait for 2016. Showing with finality that you don't need to win an election to run a government.

Beyond Bin Laden

WORLD VIEW

Richard N. Haass

NEW YORK—The killing of Osama bin Laden by United States special forces constitutes a significant victory over global extremism. But it is a milestone, not a turning point, in what remains an ongoing struggle with an honorable end.

The significance of what was accomplished seems in part from Bin Laden's symbolic importance. He has been an icon, representing the unity as well as the success against the United States and the West. That icon has now been destroyed.

Another positive consequence is the demonstrated effect of counter-terrorism operations carried out by US soldiers. As a result, some terrorists, one hopes, will decide to become former terrorists—and some young militants might now make easier choices deciding to become terrorists in the first place.

But any celebration needs to be tempered by certain realities. Bin Laden's demise, as welcome as it is, should in no way be equated with the defeat of al-Qaeda.

Terrorism is a decentralized phenomenon, akin to funding, planning and execution. Removing Bin Laden does not end the criminal threat. There are successors, starting with Ayman al-Zawahiri in al-Qaeda, as well as in associated groups operating out of Yemen, Somalia and India or elsewhere. Its terrorists will continue. Indeed, it could even grow somewhat worse in the short run, as there are sure to be those who will want to show that they can still strike against the West.

The best parallel that I can think of when it comes to mainstreaming terrorism and how to deal with it is Hamas. There are steps that can and should be taken to isolate or neutralize certain types of weapons or behavior, to reduce our vulnerability to terrorism, and to reduce the consequences of infection if, despite all of our efforts, we become ill. Disease is one something that can be eliminated, but others it can be managed.

There are obvious parallels with militants. As we have recently witnessed, militants can be terminated and stopped before they can succeed. But individuals and countries can be defended; and societies can take steps to bolster their resilience when they are successfully assailed, as in some cases they inevitably will be. Those elements of a comprehensive, layered counter-terrorist strategy can reduce the threat to manageable, or at least not unacceptable, levels.

But vulnerable is not good enough when it comes to protecting innocent life. We want to do better. The ultimate is to be found in the realm of prevention. More must be done to encourage the recruitment of terrorists, thereby reducing the threat before it materializes.

Most terrorists today are young and male. And, while the overwhelming majority of the world's Muslims are not terrorists, many of the world's terrorists are Muslim. It would help enormously if the regard if Arab and Muslim political leaders spoke out against the intentional killing of men, women and children by anyone or any group for political purposes. There is also a pressing need for religious leaders to speak out and protest. Terrorists must be stripped of any legitimacy that it may be viewed as having.

One potential positive development here stems from the political changes that we are seeing in many parts of the Middle East. There is a greater chance than before that young people will become more integrated in their own societies and less susceptible to the appeal of extremism if they enjoy greater political and economic opportunity.

Pakistan will most likely prove critical in determining the future prominence of terrorism. Unfortunately, while it is home to some of the world's most dangerous terrorists, it is decidedly less than a full partner in the struggle against it. Some parts of the Pakistani government are openly pulled to terrorists and unwilling to act against it; other parts simply lack the capacity to act against it effectively.

Capacity is much easier to provide than will. The worldwide search can and should continue to provide intelligence to help Pakistan acquire the strength and skills required to tackle modern-day terrorism.

But no amount of external assistance can compensate for a lack of motivation and commitment. Some Pakistanis have become convinced that all, or at least enough to be a limited partner in the struggle against terror. Pakistan needs to become a full partner.

There will be Pakistanis who will protest that such a partnership would mean military action, or going than a violated Pakistan's sovereignty. But sovereignty is not absolute; it involves obligations as well as rights. Pakistan must understand that they will forfeit some of those rights if they do not move their obligations to ensure that their territory is not used to shelter terrorists.

If things do not change, the sort of independent military operation carried out by US soldiers will become less the exception than the rule. This is not merely an objection to sovereignty, but also to the principle that a nation has an obligation to its own citizens and those of other nations to not harbor terrorists.

Pakistan will be under intense pressure to do more. It is in its own interest to do so. Pakistan's leaders need to become a full partner.

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Pakistan will be under intense pressure to do more. It is in its own interest to do so. Pakistan's leaders need to become a full partner.

Richard N. Haass, formerly director of Policy Planning in the US State Department, is president of The Council on Foreign Relations.

Free gold

FOCUSLIBRARY's personal Museum Day it will be free admission today at the Ayala Museum in Makati. Staff—by appointment—to take the museum's major collections, especially the exhibit, "Gold of Ancestors," featuring hundreds of precolonial gold items excavated from different parts of the Philippines.

You might also want to buy the museum's latest publication, "Philippine Archaeological Gold," edited by Dr. Florina H. Capistrano-Baker. It is a coffee table book with excellent photographs not just of Ayala's gold collection but of other archaeological excavations of gold artifacts.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The book launch turned out to be a crash course on (pre-colonial Philippines, with lectures by Capistrano-Baker, who spoke on "ancestral gold" in general and not just those of the Ayala Museum, together with Dr. Eusebio Dizon and Professor Wilhelmina Bautista, both archaeologists from the National Museum and faculty members of the University of the Philippines.

Before I go into the lectures, let me explain why it is so important to appreciate the gold exhibits. Every way leaves after the book launch, I thought of the dramatic progress that has been made in reconstructing our history, thanks to the archaeological findings in the last 30 years or so. At the same time, though, I also felt rather sad thinking of how the public has not kept pace with these findings, mainly because our educational institutions and the mass media have not had access to the publications that have come out from these findings.

Rich history

Hourly after the Ayala Museum book launch, the 10th College of Social Sciences and Philosophy had its annual summer training workshop for social science teachers. In my opening remarks, I referred to the Ayala Museum exhibits, featuring some photographs from the book. I pointed out to the teachers in the audience that they do know about pre-colonial Philippines, and to junk all that nonsense around the Code of Kalantiaw and the Maragtas Code.

There's a play "Juke" by Nick Quijano, that has been running at UP forming on the Code of Kalantiaw and the Tausug conspiracy. Like my earlier play dating back to the 1990s, "Juke—ang Alamat ng Video Videoke," "Juke" talks about how we Filipinos sexually amused to be fooled by such stories. It reflects an almost desperate craving for a past, accompanied by an inferiority complex. While our neighboring countries are proud of megaliths or grand stone monuments like temples, we seemed to have nothing to boast about in terms of a "civilization."

The three lectures at Ayala Museum remind Filipinos that we do have a rich and colorful past waiting to be reconstructed. The gold collections offer a best point which, linked to other artifacts like pottery, beads, tools and other objects, strongly suggest the Philippines may have been one of the most important trading and cultural hubs in the region several centuries ago.

Capistrano-Baker started her lecture pointing out the wide distribution of gold from archaeological sites. After all, we are one of the world's largest producers of gold. The archaeological findings reflect this, ranging an amazing variety of gold objects—jewelry, clothing accessories, even household items and weighing scales.

Imagine the travelers of the Spanish era when they saw the locals wearing gold in the most unusual bodies, including shanley earrings, some of which are on display in the Ayala Museum. Imagine, too, when the native must have thought seeing the ringing hands of Spanish soldiers and friars.

The jewelry designs vary, some unique to the Philippines, others with influences from Indonesia, India and certain parts of Southeast Asia—e.g., the Indonesian garuda, a mythological bird. These regional similarities tell us that our ancestors were "trading" not just material goods but also ideas and culture.

While the Ayala collections are exciting, they probably represent only a small percentage of what's been excavated, as well as what will be excavated in the future. Because archaeological excavations are properly regulated in the country, museum curators have long been digging up the gold and selling them to private collectors.

Many of these private collections are still significant. Capistrano-Baker pointed out that of the gold excavated from one Pantukan site, Or Ibi, was still less than the gold in museum stores (a kind of such stores across the street to indicate one's social status) in Sa'gad-ad Bay and weighing 1.6 kg.

Extravagance

There was outstanding gold ear covers, in the ancestral gold. There is a chapter in the book, "Philippine Ancestral Gold" by Jaime Kelly, about the famous "Agusan image," 12-cm high and weighing two kilos. It was found in 1917 in Agusan del Sur and is now in the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History. Kelly says this image and the figures in earrings associated with Tantric Buddhism and Hinduism, excavated from Sumatra, East Java, although the Indonesian versions are smaller and made of bronze. There are called "offering goddesses," heralding from richer deities.

Capistrano-Baker shared Kelly's questions: if these images were actually "gods," why were they more the main images like? And considering how much were involved, mind image, who could have been behind the "lavish decrees"? Interesting, we do have a tendency to overdo our religious images in the Philippines, almost as if to compete with others.

The gold artifacts are also fascinating in what they reveal about technology. Dizon, particularly the Surigao provinces. Limits that have to the descriptions of the Butuan hotsprings (large boats) by Professor Scarpulin and the huge volumes of cotton found in shipwrecks around the southern Philippines, and you realize the Filipino and other Southeast Asian have flourishing networks of trade, both domestic as well as international. The photographs of hundreds of ceramics found in such shipwrecks tell us that our ancestors already had an appetite for imported stuff. Dizon also mentioned that one of the shipwrecks, the Nanhaiwu, was dated to the 14th century, yet the ceramics were more than 200 years old. Interesting is it possible that the demand wasn't just for "made in China" stuff, but for antiques as well?

Gold, unfortunately, cannot be dated, but the ceramics can be, so we know that this "golden era" was probably around the time of Hindu-Buddhist dynasty sweeping the Orb in the 13th centuries.

The "Philippines" didn't exist yet, so we're talking about communities independent from each other, but with elaborate trading networks and, most probably political ties. From the historical records of neighboring countries, we know, too, that there was a period of intense rivalry and competition, and one can imagine the gold ornaments were not just used as adornments but also as ways of displaying one's status and power. There was probably also a prestige angle to the ceramic wares.

There are more exciting times ahead as we learn more about our past. I hope, too, we will look beyond the gold and opulence, and delve beneath around the mundane of societies.

Email: mtan@inquirer.com.ph.

Another candidate for Ombudsman

AT LARGE

Brian Jimenez-Davis

AMONG THE names being floated for the next Ombudsman is that of Walden F. Bello[1], who may not exactly provoke a spark of recognition among Filipinos but his credentials and track record make him a fitting choice for the country's top graft-buster.

Bello is the national coordinator of the Alternative Law Groups (ALG), an alliance of lawyers' groups working among the poor and championing their causes and, in the words of Christian Monsod in his letter of nomination for the position, "doing a good job of it by being thoroughly professional in their work."

The undersecretariat of the Office of the Ombudsman, in its critical task of "saving the people's champion against anything illegal, improper or unjust," needs a leader who can "hit the ground running" due to the fact that the appointing power invariably looks only at the legal credentials of the nominees," writes Monsod in his letter. "But the job of Ombudsman needs a person with more than legal credentials. It needs a person who commands a person who can use a persuasive power for justice, with the energy and the courage to doggedly manage, prioritize and pursue cases to their completion. He/she must also command the respect not only of assistants and peers but of the bureaucracy. Because one of his/her tasks will be to use persuasion on the bureaucracy to change its ways so that it can serve the people better. He must also be capable of mobilizing public support for his work. I have observed that he or she will be able to do this only if people see in him/her the core trait of moral authority."

What's more, notes Monsod, in his work with poor communities and poor lawyers, Monsod has proven himself a "gifted manager." "He is the leader of choice when there is a need to coordinate the activities of many lawyers who are working people of different expertise and political persuasions, because not only does he know his law, he is able to group issues into clear legal. He is patient, genuinely modest and 'real' under fire. He has the capability to effectively address the inefficiencies and complex tasks of the Office of the Ombudsman," says Monsod.

Bello[2], 41, is a law graduate from the Ateneo de Manila Law School and placed 8th in the 1994 bar examinations. He first worked in one of the more prestigious law firms in the country, but after about a year he decided to cast his lot with the underprivileged, joining the Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal Dahlquist which does developmental legal work with farmers, workers, urban poor, women and local communities, and serving as its executive director from 1987 to 2000. Bello has experience in different areas of the country with more than 100 partner organizations.

He later accepted the position of national coordinator of ALG, which gathers 28 legal NGOs that "address the problem of the lack of access of alternative or social development-oriented law practice."

In the same time, Monsod has been a professor and bar review lecturer at the Ateneo de Manila Law School and the University of the Visayas Faculty of Civil Law.

* * *

In his own nomination of Monsod submitted to the Judicial and Bar Council, Bello[3] specifically cites the undersecretary Director Ombudsman's ability to "coordinate the performance of the many administrative or social development-oriented law practice."

Bello[4] also notes that Monsod has been a professor and bar review lecturer at the Ateneo de Manila Law School and the University of the Visayas Faculty of Civil Law.

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* * *

CLEARLY, what sets Walden Monsod apart from the other notables whose names have cropped up is his rich experience in public interest and human rights lawyering, and his ties to various communities and sectors whose interests are often overlooked in litigation and policy-making.

Writing to express his willingness to serve should he be appointed by the Judicial and Bar Council, Monsod says that "many people say that the country desperately needs a 'people's' Ombudsman." But the term is a redundancy. A person who claims to be the "Ombudsman should be accountable to the people, and never more so than when he is dealing with ragging hostility and efficiency. Otherwise, such a person does not deserve the position and the noble title."

He may not be as well-known as the other candidates. But given his experience, the people may be confident that Walden Monsod will live up to the challenge he has set out for himself.

Choosing between books and bolos

LOOKING BACK

Antonio S. Contreras

WITH THE summer vacation coming to a close, I thought about my students who graduated last March and the incoming freshmen we will meet in June. All these young people are willing to bet for science but pay to gain diploma, cash and the happily-ever-after. But a college or university degree is not a guarantee of employment anymore because we churn out more graduates than jobs. How many such fine future abroad waiting to swan on know-it-nots-isle.

In Malaysia, where I presently based, the minister of higher education recently announced a five-year temporary freeze on new medical courses in institutions of higher education to address an oversupply of medical graduates. The Philippines should have done the same when nursing schools and courses began to mushroom all over, many of them poorly equipped and nursing graduates with no work at home and abroad. Malaysia also froze the intake of students in institutions whose medical education did not meet accreditation standards. Some problems in the Philippines where diploma mills need to be closed or brought up to par.

Even Malaysia, a country that

Sensational reporting degrades Pinoy psyche

I DEPLORE the tendency of media to gravitate toward the dramatic and sensational in their coverage of the news. Their frenzied "pursuit of weeping and tears" produces what we can only call a "pornography of grief."

This egregious practice was amazingly evident, again, during the coverage of the execution of the three Filipino drug mules in China last March. Reporters were all over town "documenting" on camera the emotional moments of members of the murdered drug mules' families. The media crews would flash into their subjects' every way, every wail and every pained sound of their subjects as they competed to present the rawest, most dramatic coverage of the executions. But what was the news value of all this?

Sensationalist reporting is not just bad or harmless journalism. It deprives journalism its true historical purpose and degrades us. For the subjects of the coverage, not only is their privacy violated, their dignity is often stripped as well before they are denied to adult status and vulnerable grieving, big news. For the news viewers, the quality of information they get for a hearing on the opinions they form and decisions they make. For example, when people are an emotional person desiring to high heaven unbridling against all evildoers and executioners, they can get to satisfy the feeling that they are as much entitled to emotionally

Forgiving without seeking justice is a vice

ONE OF the attributes we Filipinos have is our forgiving nature, as much as that we are now considering burying in the cyberspace ng mga Ilocano's dictator-president, Ferdinand Marcos, who placed the Philippines on the world map as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. Wasn't it only less than 10 years ago when millions of Filipinos marched on Edsa to oust Marcos?

Now we are ready to accord him a burial that is worthy of a hero? The late Senator Wigo Aquino and the late President Cory Aquino who both sacrificed for us to regain our democracy must be turning in their graves right now.

In burying Marcos as the ultimate ng mga bayani, we would be telling young Filipinos that government leaders who presumably perform some good deeds, like serving in the military, can be committed human crimes if later in their lives they would violate the human rights of thousands of Filipinos and bankrupt our country by stealing billions of dollars from our public coffers. Moreover, we would be telling future generations of Filipinos that it is okay for us to forgive and forget without justice being served to victims of a cruel regime.

If this plan or fancy likeness in the Ilocano ng mga Bayani pushes through, I wouldn't be surprised if several years down the line, there will also be groups who will push for the establishment of a monument in the heart of Manila for the late President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as a champion of good governance and ethical leadership in our country.

Unless we learn the lessons from our experiences and maintain so forever's the rise and mistakes of the past, we will never be able to move forward as a nation.

—RAFFY T. REY,
director for South Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship, Ateneo de Manila University, School of Government,
harveyluke@gmail.com

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Ombudsman's inaction perpetuating injustice

WE ARE employees of the municipal government of Hamtungan, Iomar. Our mayor, Alejandro Montenegro, has refused to give the salaries and benefits due to us since Jan. 1, 2010. And worse, our protests for an end to the extortions to a former barangay due to about 50 kilometers away from the municipal building where we are supposed to hold our respective offices.

As a result of these highly unlawful and reprehensible acts of Mayor Montenegro, we filed administrative and criminal complaints against him with the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas in Cebu City. We received copies of the orders issued by the Ombudsman for Mayor Montenegro to file his answers to the complaints and to furnish copies of his answers to us, the complainants. However, since then, we have not received any order or notice from the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas, neither were we furnished copies of the counter-affidavits executed by the mayor, if it did file such pleadings with the Ombudsman.

We sought the assistance of the Commission on Human Rights Region VIII in Tacloban City. It immediately sent a letter to the Ombudsman for the Visayas, requesting an update on the status of the complaints we filed against the mayor. Based on the reply of the Ombudsman for the Visayas, it appears that our complaints were shelved, which the prescribed period—we request for the resolution of these Ombudsman pending investigation by the Ombudsman has likewise not been acted upon, and despite the fact that the cases have been pending for a long period of time, we have not been furnished by the Ombudsman's Office a copy of his counter-affidavits, if he had indeed filed them, as required by law.

There are indications that the Office of the Ombudsman has been negligent in the discharge of its constitutional duties to investigate and prosecute irregularities committed by officers of the public service. It is no wonder that the former Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez herself was impeached by the House of Representatives. As it is said, if the powerful of the city councils, are often left unaddressed and voted.

We therefore implore President Aquino to [illegible] Secretary Jesse Robredo to immediate help that we may be saved from the injustice being done to us by Mayor Alejandro Montenegro.

—RUEN NARCO, municipal treasurer's office; JUDITH TRAL, assessor, municipal health officer; ELENA OMEÑA, municipal accountant; RAUL BACHINAL, agricultural technologist, Office of the Municipal Agriculturist

Old Angat Dam posing danger to Bulakeños

ANGAT DAM is Metro Manila's principal source of drinking water. The new big wonder, concessionaire handling the distribution of water to Metro Manila are subject to the regulatory authority of the MWSS. It is no secret that both concessionaires have made huge profits from the business.

It is timely as the MWSS and its new concessionaires have benefited from this business, they should make sure that the dam can withstand the impact of unforeseeable events. In other words, the MWSS and its concessionaires should guarantee the dam's structural integrity and thus also the safety of the people living in the vicinity.

Unfortunately, in the absence of all the subsidies, after benefiting from Angat Dam for more than four decades, the MWSS is now abandoning the dam for the Laiban Dam, leaving Angat Dam at the mercy of time and nature.

Reportedly, Angat Dam needs immediate repair and maintenance work due to cracks along each of its ridges. In a 2008 speech, then Vice Governor Willy Alvarado warned that an earthquake with a 7.3 magnitude could bring down the whole dam and wipe out the whole of Bulacan.

In the spirit of unity and camaraderie, and in devotion to God, we Bulakeños are asking the assistance of all concerned persons, institutions and agencies, public or private, in this danger. And we are appealing to them for immediate action to eliminate this deadly threat.

—JOSE T. SANTIAGO, 11226 Esperanza St., Poblete, Malanday

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BDO ROBINSONS

JPE files measure to counter Palace-backed RH bill

THE SENATE leadership has introduced a measure to counter the Malacañang-backed reproductive health (RH) bill.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile has authored the proposed "Protection of the Unborn Child Act of 2011," which seeks to provide a comprehensive framework to ensure the welfare of both the unborn child and the mother.

Senate Bill No. 2907 was coauthored by Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada and Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III. Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. filed his own version in Senate Bill No. 2635.

Some said the bicameral bills are two bills aimed more as a "veto promise" among groups working to promote life and ensure the well-being of women. "If there is an honest to goodness Salvador [Escudero] or [Juan Edgardo] Angara who is pro-life, then this is it," he said.

In the bill's explanatory note, Enrile lamented that "the dedication and effort held consequences" of abortion "have been used as a convenient excuse to advance population control under the euphemism called 'reproductive health.'"

The measure protects the unborn child from conception "from abortifacients, abortive acts and practices that induce abortion."

To prevent the "weed war" between the Catholic Church and RH advocates from degenerating, the two camps should find "other venues" in their ranks and campaign in a dispute to forge a "compromise bill," Sen. Edgardo Angara said.

"The intensity is unprecedented. I don't think this [Aquino] should provoke that kind of violence. The discussion should be sober and more reasoned than replete with threats and blackmail and intimidation," Angara told the INQUIRER.

He suggested Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Iloilo to speak for the Church.

Enrile conceded that the escalating conflict between some bishops and RH proponents had its crazy side, too.

"I do not know the extent of the commitment of the RH bill proponents—if they want to resist. And I do not know also what is the furthest that the Church can go in accommodate. So it is a very difficult issue," he told reporters. *Report's from Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio in Manila, Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Pacman is Church poster boy vs reproductive health bill

From page A1

express his full support for the Church in countering the RH measure.

Purple is the color adopted by RH advocates. "[But] Obi-Ce has nothing to do with the issue ... Actually my wife prepared this for me," Pacquiao said in a subsequent press conference with the bishops, eliciting laughter from reporters who had noticed on the one-night t-shirt.

He confidently said he could get away with it because he was already known in Congress as among those speaking out against the lop (diarrhea) measure that seeks to provide 10 spleen (abdominal cholera-like) family planning method boxes stated for them.

Fundamentalism

Pacquiao said he was against artificial contraception because, he claimed, it was against the will of God.

"God said, 'Go forth and multiply.' He did not say 'Go and have just one or two children,'" he said.

But in an interview with reporters, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said the eight-division champion was behaving like a rich glass "fundamentalist" who had no business interpreting the Bible to support his position.

Pacquiao's interpretation of God's injunction to "go forth and multiply," Santiago said, "sounds very much like God is encouraging us to go out and copulate in public."

"God said in the Bible, 'Go forth and multiply.' That meant that God wanted man not necessarily to literally multiply, but to go out to work with the rest of the human beings of this planet and to apply the stewardship theory. Meaning to say, taking care of each other, who are still in the planet together," she said.

The senator said her statements were "facetious," but warned the boxing superstar against interpreting the Bible literally.

"It is very dangerous to quote the Bible and applyit literally, as Pacquiao is doing," she said. "Kahit mo papasakan iyo kanang mga senador hindi papasok sa pagbabasa" [Even if you pass on all senators the "Pilipinas" you are creating in it what we senators would not venture into losing? But if you like, maybe we can.]

Hypocrisy

Santiago said there was an "element of hypocrisy" to Pacquiao's position on the RH bill, pointing out that while his wife had been quoted as saying that she was on the pill, he himself was reported to have said that he was applying discipline to spare their children.

"In that case, apparently Pacquiao would have to use violence on his wife because she is not living in conformity with his beliefs," the senator said.

Santiago downplayed the impact of Pacquiao's "star power" in the Catholic Church's campaign against the RH bill.

She heaped praise on Pacquiao's remarkable accomplishments in boxing but scored her fellow legislator: "We cannot let know-it-alls. It will be very misleading to use his celebrity status to sense into what is, after all, a great debate on the political economy."

Corruption to blame

Pacquiao had earlier expressed his stand against artificial contraception and urged couples to practice sexual abstinence and natural family planning.

He said there would not have been a Manny Pacquiao if his parents, who were poor and had no jobs, used artificial birth control methods.

Pacquiao is the third child in a brood of four. He has four children with his wife Jinkee, who was quoted in a published report as saying that she was on the pill because she did not want another child after their youngest, Queenie.

In screening his stand against the RH bill, Pacquiao yesterday said the Philippines' big population should not be blamed for the plight of the poor.

"We should blame corruption because the money that is supposed to help the poor goes to the pockets of officials who are already rich," he said.

Pacquiao rolled on his bare waistcoats to rally behind the Catholic Church and "follow God's command, not man's."

His remark drew applause from the multitude, mostly lay people who had provided for his boxing's lunch and arranged his meeting with the bishops.

Among those who handled with Pacquiao were Bishop Nereo Odchimar [the CBCP president], Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma, Bishop Ramon Villena, Pablo Virgilio David, Antonio Tuviera, Leonardo Medroso, Gerardo Alminaza, Emmanuel Cabajar, Deogracias Iñiguez and Honesto Ongtioco and Msgr. Jesus Cipriano.

All are members of the CBCP Permanent Council, which convened yesterday for its usual quarterly meeting.

French complicit in keeping sex secrets

PARIS—The third follows a clear script. A scandal threatens to destroy the reputation of a powerful figure in France. Politicians say they are shocked. Friends say they are nonplussed. Associates debate whether they should have investigated rumors and revealed secrets. The dust settles. The scandal-ee retains. Private life is preserved.

When, for example, François Mitterrand was asked by a journalist during his presidency whether it was true that he had a daughter outside his marriage, he replied: "Yes, it's true. So, so what? It's none of the public's business."

The French have been complicit in accepting this sort of secret-keeping. They do not enjoy ugly revelations that could tear apart the social fabric.

What shocked them more than the existence of Mitterrand's mistress and their daughter was the revelation after his death that the French state had financially supported them and even provided police protection.

Now, the arrest of IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn in connection with a hotel maid's alleged rape only adds to a sense on the part of some people in France that the curtain of privacy needs to be lifted.

HALL PROVIDENCE: Dominique Strauss-Kahn (right), head of the International Monetary Fund, listens to his lawyer Benjamin Brafman (center) during a bail hearing in Manhattan Criminal Court in connection with charges of sexual assault on a maid at a hotel near Times Square.

FLIGHT RISK: Criminal Court Judge Melissa Jackson's comments to prosecutors Strauss-Kahn is a flight risk and orders him to be placed in jail.

Used and abused

"We felt that our sons were superior to the Americans and the British by upholding the principle of protecting private life," Pierre Haski, one of France's leading political commentators, said in an interview.

"But we journalists haven't done our job properly. We were used and abused in keeping secrets. We need to define our role in a more aggressive way—and say that not everything power is private," he added.

Haski said he had been wrong to withhold information in the past about French political figures that could have compromised their ability to carry out their duties.

"I knew that when Roland Dumas was foreign minister, he was romantically involved with the daughter of Syria's defense minister," he said. "I didn't write it because it was a matter of his private life." I was wrong. It had an impact on France's foreign policy."

Shifts in public life

The Strauss-Kahn scandal somehow coincides with shifts in French public life in which the codes had already begun to crash and secrets were being revealed.

The personality-driven nature of the presidency of Nicolas Sarkozy has created stronger forprominently driven, tell-all tales.

Technology has made it easy to record and film private conversations and embarrassing public encounters on cell phones, contributing to a transparency that had never before existed.

But historically, the French have traded in rumors and secrets, and there are several reasons why they can be joined around to private stories has not put into public discussion.

'Live happy, live hidden'

Here, the French have long been accustomed to encountering stories about powerful figures and politicians.

The dictum Chirac the era of the royal court—where information was power, yet had to be handled carefully. Subaltern stories, whether true or not, made for good conversation.

That makes the French tolerant of other people's private behavior, especially sexual behavior. Private lives many not be invaded by outsiders.

"In, live happy, live hidden," goes the saying by Jean-Pierre Claris de Florian, the 18th century poet.

There was no public outcry or journalistic investigation, for example, when Anthony named Frédéric Mitterrand, the nephew of François Mitterrand, as minister of culture, even though he had written a memoir describing in graphic detail how he had paid for sex with "boys" in Thailand.

Proof of vigor

Instead, politicians in France are not hounded out of office for sexual indiscretions (although violations against women is another matter).

Traditionally, a political man who reveals his sexual prowess is proving his vigor. He is showing his countrymen that he is fully and physically capable of running the country.

During the All Clinton-Monica Lewinsky scandal in the United States, even some French politicians associated with Catholic causes chose to sympathize the US leader for his strength of libido.

"He loves women, this man!" Marie-Christine Boutin, a deputy in Parliament, said. "It's a sign of good health!"

Too many philanderers

Third, libel laws are so protective of private lives that the least intrusion in print or broadcasting inevitably leads to legal action and heavy fines.

The French media's fear of retribution by the powerful publishes American-style investigative journalism.

Finally, so many powerful figures in France—particularly men...are believed to have strayed from their marital vows that to begin publishing them might transform the political landscape of France.

Rumors about Strauss-Kahn's behavior have swirled through France for years. In a kind of French parlor game, journalists and academics quizzed one another as a way to reveal rumors.

'Sexus Politicus'

"It is our duty to stop our editors from spreading rumors," Christophe Deloire, one of the authors of "Sexus Politicus," an investigative book on the private lives of leading politicians, wrote in an editorial in Le Monde on Monday. "To let them spread without having the courage to verify them is a mistake."

He added, "We cannot give our citizens reasons to think that we are lying to them, even by omission."

The book was credited with breaking the taboo on discussing private life.

Strauss-Kahn, for a time, didn't care. If he has done something more serious that would affect his capacity as a public figure, that's where the law should be drawn. We haven't done our job properly on Strauss-Kahn. But what I fear is that the scandal could lead us into bedroom politics, which I would hate." Report from New York Times News Service

From $3,000 hotel suite to small jail cell

From page A1

It was in that same hotel suite that he allegedly attacked the housekeeper in charge of the assault. Since then, his sparkling career has crumbled.

Strauss-Kahn's lawyers say he is innocent but he could still lose his job as head of the IMF, which oversees the world economy, and his chances to run in France's presidential election next April are in tatters.

In France, a lawyer for 32-year-old French novelist Tristane Banon said she would probably file a complaint alleging Strauss-Kahn sexually attacked her in 2002.

Lawyer David Koubbi said French radio RTL that Banon hadn't pursued her claim earlier because of "pressures" but would do so now because "the silence she'll be taken seriously."

A French lawmaker from a rival political party also alleged, without offering evidence, that Strauss-Kahn had terminated several maids during past stays at the Sofitel.

The hotel called lawmaker Michel Sapin's claims "baseless and defamatory."

Bail denied

Strauss-Kahn, 62, was transferred to Rikers Island after a New York judge denied his request for bail.

Wary of possible attacks on the globe-trotting IMF chief, officials put him in the section of the 10 jails in the vast Rikers complex and separated him from the other inmates, who share 50-bed barracks.

A spokesperson for New York's Department of Correction said Strauss-Kahn would be kept from other inmates even when released out of his cell to stretch his legs, exercise or watch television.

Rikers is one of the nation's largest jail complexes, with a daily inmate population of about 14,000—more than the prison populations of many states. Famous inmates have included rapper Lil' Wayne.

Prison fights

The complex's notable features also include accounts of run-ins between inmates and guards.

In one such case last year, a guard was sentenced to six years in prison for ordering inmates' beatings as part of a rogue disciplinary system. Prosecutors said he imposed order in a unit in the complex by having teenage inmates beat other teenagers who had stepped out of line.

Also last year, more than a dozen correction officers were injured while quelling fights between inmates.

Haggard, unshaven

The IMF chief looked drained, haggard and unshaven in his court appearances on Monday as prosecutors detailed his alleged attack against the maid.

"He certainly smashed him and attempted to forcibly rape him. Where he was unsuccessful, he forced her to perform oral sex on him," Assistant District Attorney John McConnell told the court.

Defense lawyers suggested Saint had be set at $1 million. Strauss-Kahn faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

Plea bargain

Judge Melissa Jackson was persuaded by prosecutors that Strauss-Kahn might try to flee to France, as she ordered him put behind bars and set a new hearing for Friday. Police had called Strauss-Kahn off an Air France jet as he was to leave for Paris.

Strauss-Kahn's lawyers are expected to appeal the judge's bail decision. Bail would allow him to live in New York with his wife, prominent French television personality Anne Sinclair, while awaiting trial.

Without bail, he could face a long wait in a miserable jail cell, an ordeal that experts say could push him toward a plea bargain deal.

The charismatic, multilingual and witty Strauss-Kahn was widely praise for his leadership of the IMF during the 2007-2009 global financial meltdown as well as the euro zone's current debt crisis, and his arrest has thrown the agency into turmoil.

Office affair

The IMF board has a clear hold call on deciding whether or not to remove Strauss-Kahn from his job.

The board also faces embarrassing questions about why it let Strauss-Kahn off with just a reprimand in 2008 after he was found to be having an extramarital affair with a subordinate, a blond Hungarian businesswoman who is married.

The woman was 30 at the time and was employed at the IMF since 1986. The IMF would ultimately clear him of having abused the power of his office.

Resistance comes inside the IMF, but he often made an unlikely sexual advances to women have long dogged his career there.

'Battle has just begun'

France's election campaign has also been turned upside down. Strauss-Kahn had been widely tipped to win the Socialist Party's presidential nomination and early opinion polls showed him ahead of President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Unless the criminal case against him quickly collapses and he is proven innocent, Strauss-Kahn has no hope of running for president.

"We believe as the lawyer for Brafman was defiant, saying lawyer evidence taken by police from Strauss-Kahn "will not be consistent with a forcible encounter."

"We believe we will prove ... that Mr. Strauss is innocent of these charges," Brafman said before...The battle has just begun."

Brafman successfully defended pop star Michael Jackson from molestation charges in 2005, and legal experts say his team will almost certainly try to dig up information on the maid in the Strauss-Kahn case. Reports from Reuters, AP and New York Times News Service

'Terminator' sired child with household staff

From page A1

Los Times reported on Tuesday.

"After leaving the governor's office, I told my wife about this event, which occurred over a decade ago," Schwarzenegger told the newspaper in a statement that also was sent to The Associated Press early Tuesday.

Apology to Maria, kids

"I understand and deserve the feelings of anger and disappointment among my friends and family. There are no excuses and I take full responsibility for the hurt I have caused. I have apologized to Maria, my children and my family. I am truly sorry," the statement added.

"I ask that the media respect my wife and children through this extremely difficult time. While I deserve your attention and criticism, my family does not."

Schwarzenegger's representatives did not comment further. A spokesperson for the Attorney California's first lady said she had no comment.

The Los Angeles Times did not publish the former staffer's name nor that of her child but said the woman worked for the family for 20 years and served as its nanny.

Mother of child

In an interview on Monday before Schwarzenegger issued his statement, the former staffer said another mom—her husband at the time—was the child's father.

When The Los Angeles Times later informed the woman of the governor's statement, she declined to comment further.

The child was born before Schwarzenegger began his career as a movie star in public office.

Rumors stood by her husband during his 2003 gubernatorial campaign after The Los Angeles Times reported accusations that he had a history of groping women. Schwarzenegger later said he "behaved badly sometimes."

He has been public commentary since the couple announced their breakup. Schwarzenegger said last week that he and Shriver "both love each other very much."

"We are very fortunate that we have four extraordinary children and we're taking one day at a time," he said at a Los Angeles event marking Israeli independence. Their children range in age from 13 to 21.

Since his term as California governor ended in early January, Schwarzenegger, 63, has begun to host a reality show and is working on his memoirs.

The "Terminator" star appeared confident about the future since exiting politics, citing movie deals and fundraising himself as a global spokesperson for green energy.

Unsettled

But Shriver, known for her confidence, seemed unsettled.

Shriver, 55, maintained her own identity when her husband entered politics, though she gave up her job at NBC.

Their union was often tested in Sacramento, where the former action star contended with a tough seven years of legislative gridlock, a budget crisis and lingering questions about his fidelity. Report from AP

LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY: Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger holds hands with his wife Maria Shriver as he walks to address the media after voting in the midterm elections at Crestwood Hills Recreation Center in Los Angeles, California, in this Nov. 7, 2006, file photo.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Baron Ciso/Rolando B. Fernandez

'We need the imagination of artists to move forward'

By Maria Makiling
Baguio City

FOR ENCOURAGING the export of its people as contract workers—many of them maids and caregivers—the Philippines has been lambasted down by some countries as "a nation of servants."

But an emerging trend may yet overturn this image, said it lies in the field of arts and culture as the creative industry where talented Filipinos in the visual and performance arts have been excelling in global competitions.

"This is not surprising because of our rich multicultural heritage," says Maria Lourdes Jacob, executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Jacob, a playwright-artist, spoke during the opening of the Second Tam-awan International Visual Arts Festival in Baguio City last week. Cosponsored by the Intramuros Administration and the NCCA, the festival drew artists from around the country and a few from abroad at Tam-awan Village to showcase traditional and contemporary artworks and performances.

Jacob's own creative work: artist-driven imagination, creativity and innovation can help to prosper. She cites the role of artists, such as the late Lino Brocka, whose novels and other writings helped usher in reform during the dyanmic colonial rule.

She also cites contemporary filmmakers, like the late Celso Ad Castillo, who assailed that "the artist is also a citizen" and thus produced films critical of monogamous Ferdinand Marcos' martial law regime.

Given the role of artists in helping forge values and with the country's multicultural heritage, the NCCA has been challenged to push the "cultural dimension of corruption and environmental ways to address this, Jacob says.

"Artists can help produce works, such as films or literature, which can examine mindsets and perspectives, provoke new ways of thinking, and help find new ways of doing things," she says.

Playwrights and filmmakers, she says, can draw lessons on epochs and noble challenges from contemporary heroes like the Cordillera blacksmithing Bulog.

A staunch critic of the World Bank-funded Chico Dam project in Kalinga and Mt. Province, Dulag, a Kalinga shoeshaman, had professed values and philosophies about humanity's relation to its land and resources. He was murdered by government soldiers on April 24, 1980.

'An economy of culture' can help transform the country's image from 'a nation of servants' to 'a nation of artists'

RESIDENTS of Lubuagan, Kalinga, perform traditional dances in the resort Laga Festival that honors indigenous habits and herbal top weaving in the upland Cordillera town.

World-class artists

"Besides music, many young Filipino visual artists are winning in Singapore, South America, Europe and the Middle East," says Jacob.

As Filipino artists continue to shine on the global arena, the NCCA seeks to help create what Jacob calls "an economy of culture." This, she says, can help transform the Philippines' image from "a nation of servants" to "a nation of artists."

Many Filipino artists on their own have been honing their skills and talents, drawing inspiration and support from their peers. But they must be supported so they can be given the opportunity to practice and further evolve and master their craft, Jacob says.

The NCCA supports both traditional and contemporary artists for the "flowering of a creative industry" which, she says, may yet help to lure the country from the grocery cart.

It has continued to look for traditional artists in practice and eventually pass on their art and craft, Jacob says. Thus, it has been supporting indigenous communities, which seek to continue studying their local art and culture through "schools of living tradition."

Interest-free loan

Some traditional artists are also farmers or fishermen, the NCCA has embarked on an interest-free loan scheme to help them practice and simultaneously earn from their craft. This assistance is also offered to contemporary artists.

Part of the scheme is helping create a 70 to 80 percent profit-sharing arrangement to three of artists.

The NCCA first implemented the scheme in Bilibinwas and helped remove the hold of "loan sharks" over the works of artists there, Jacob says.

It is also helping train both traditional and contemporary artists on art management and marketing.

Jacob has encouraged an art management workshop this October in which artists are encouraged to participate.

She says the NCCA has also been consistently urging local government federations to help market the works of both indigenous and contemporary artists.

But as it seeks to promote an economy of arts and culture, the NCCA, she says, also wants to ensure that some traditional practices must be respected and not to be romanticized.

Artists and urban renewal

With their gifts of imagination and innovation, artists can be tapped in helping design urban revivals and help save them from decay, Jacob says.

She cites Bohol, Tagum City in Davao del Norte and Bulacan, whose local governments have tapped local artists in their "urban development and renewal."

Sadly, not all local governments are keen in appreciating what artists can do to help this field, if not rehabilitate, urban centers, any local artists.

The Intramuros support that local governments extended to the Tam-awan festival is, still, they say, shows the level of art appreciation among local officials.

Communities strive to save dying languages

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

EVERY TOWN has stories about how its indigenous language or dialect started to disappear, observed by generations of those and a media culture that speaks only in English and Filipino.

Linguists, communication researchers and social scientists shared their woeful tales during the National Wika (Language) Summit held at the University of the Philippines (UP) Baguio last month.

But the first year, many have happy endings.

The Waray language has been discovered and provided its own orthography (writing system), which includes a uniformly accepted spelling standard, says researcher Evangeline de la Cruz.

Basic dictionaries and learning manuals devised and many young Bukos have started to seek the language, says UP linguist communication professor Jhoray Bing. She colleague, language professor Purificacion Delima, says communities in northern Luzon have started publishing newspapers in the vernacular.

Lolita Delgado-Bolgado, president of the Mangguwa Heritage Center, says Mangguwa communities are opting to learn the use of their ancient script or native alphabet.

According to Gina Stallsmith, director of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), local languages are in trouble, and half of those spoken in the world may disappear in the next 100 years.

A global economy, which requires a common language for business transactions and official communication, has encouraged many countries to endorse universally spoken languages, such as English, to be taught in schools, or used in government documents, he says.

He says it was also practical for a multicultural country, such as the Philippines and Indonesia, to establish a common language for social, cultural and political transactions.

The decades-old debate that language determination was raised to the government's imposition of Tagalog-based Filipino as the official national language had been the dominating theme of most language conferences in the past—a subject confirmed by National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almario.

But advances in studies of, listed experts a different point of view about the impact of globalization on Philippine languages.

Stallsmith says aversion toward the power of global media has pushed researchers to scales. cite exploitation of imported media, such as MTV (the music television channel).

"Global media is a virtual tsunami" and to "ignore its impact would be foolish," he says. But as a means the media as "the enemy," he says.

He cites cases of ethnic influencing their speeches immersed in pop culture are embedded in he creative, often using the medium for which they are most comfortable with, such as their own languages.

The way to preserve a dying language is to use it, he says.

Stallsmith says experts may help by building a linguistics database, or subsets communities may resort to in reviving their native tongues.

The process has helped develop an interpreted writing standard for Ifugao, an oral language, says De la Cruz, who studied the spoken Ifugao language with Ms. Kristel Tessman, Reginaldo Pepar, Michael Carlo Allas and Tolkien Oyanes for a paper read at the summit.

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LPU
Taking the Lead

Assistant Editor Tony Benigno

Across the NATION

₱2-M bounty for Samar mayor's killer

By Joey Gabieza
Inquirer Visayas

CALBAYOG CITY—The family of Mayor Reynaldo Uy has offered a cash reward of P800,000, increasing the bounty to P2 million for information that could help solve his murder and lead to the arrest of the killer.

Rose Jessica Uy-Delgado, eldest daughter of Uy, made the announcement at a press conference on Monday minutes after the body of her father was transferred to the family residence in Oquendo district.

Uy was gunned down by a still unidentified man inside a covered court in Mondragon, Samar, on April 30. He died on May 1 at Divine Word Hospital in Tacloban City.

Delgado earlier pointed to a "highly corrupt politician" as the mastermind, but she refused to identify the person.

Before he was killed, Uy was helping push a recall petition against the children of former Sen Miriam Defensor-Santiago Tan—Sharee Ann Tan-de los Santos and James Yan—who now sit as governor and vice governor of Samar.

Milagros Tan had been suspended for 90 days during her term for the misuse of calamity funds of the impoverished province.

"On behalf of the entire Uy family, I would like to inform everyone that we are raising the bounty to P2 million," Delgado said.

She said the family would assist the protection of witnesses who could help solve the crime.

Local government Secretary Jesse Robredo had said the government was offering a cash reward of P1 million, plus P200,000 from the Liberal Party (LP), for the arrest of the killer and the solution of the murder. Uy was a member of the LP.

Delgado expressed frustration at the slow pace of investigation being conducted by authorities.

"If we are going to backtrack to what other have accomplished so far, we are so sad to say that there has not been any progress yet," she said. "But they really have to help us on the case to resolve this and just have because our President said so."

President Aquino, in a visit to Uy's wake on May 3, vowed justice for the slain mayor's family.

Chief Supt. Arnold Revilla, police regional director, said the police had no clean leads yet on the case.

A board has been created to evaluate pieces of information related to the murder, Revilla said. This was one way to avoid the mistake of getting fall guys, he added.

In a statement, Malacañang, a confidante of might left-wing parties led by ex-party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, said it sees politics and Uy's involvement in prohibited campaigns as possible motives for the murder.

Malacañang noted that Uy had been very active in the recall petition vs the Tan children, which was found sufficient in form and substance by the Commission on Elections. Uy had planned to run for governor if recall elections were held.

The sudden, however, said the investigation should not spare the police and military since Uy was also active in the campaign against extrajudicial killings.

THE SOFTURFARAW rock formation in Burgos are a one-of-the tourist spots in the southern itinerary of the Pagudpud tricycle tour in Ilocos Norte. ELDEN MARCOS/INQUIRER.NET

In Ilocos Norte, try tricycle tours

PAGUDPUD, Ilocos Norte—As the rainy season approaches, travelers rushing to get most of the remaining dry days can now ride popular spots in Ilocos Norte in just one day aboard a tricycle.

HOMETOWN Snapshot

Accelerated by across the province's tourist spots can be taken by hiring members of the Pagudpud Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (Pagtodai).

Ferdinand Ibanez, a tricycle driver said tricycles started to ferry tourists in 2000. For ₱1,200, a tricycle can take up to three passengers to a total of 11 destinations in three towns.

The multi-stop tour takes passengers to the Aqua Grande River Park, Pulayan Market, Paraiso ni Antoni, Bantay Abot Cave, Bon Mercancion rock formation, the white sand beach of Blue Lagoon, Timmangtang rock formation and Kabigan Falls, all in this town.

For the southern tour, passengers visit windmills in Bangui Town, and Cape Bojeador lighthouse and kapurpurawan rock formation, both in Burgos town.

The 200 members of Pagtodai are always ready and eager to take tourists to destinations that would complete their Ilocos Norte experience, Ganzon said.

"Tourists usually come here from Laoag City. We cannot guarantee the public market," he said. Elmer Kristine Descalzo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Davao firm fires back, sues Customs for libel, abuse

DAVAO CITY—The small petroleum player Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. fired back at the bureau of Customs (BOC) by filing charges of grave misconduct, abuse of authority and libel against Commissioner Angelina Alvarez.

Dennis Ang Uy, president and executive officer of the company, through his lawyers, filed the cases at the Office of the Ombudsman here yesterday.

The suit stemmed from the case of alleged smuggling that the BOC filed against the firm on May 3. The bureau alleged that the company failed to pay duties and taxes for its oil imports.

Recently, it has named Phoenix among Davao's top three leading companies in terms of duties and taxes paid which amounted to P338,000,000. A plaque of appreciation was given to the company in February 2016.

Uy's lawyer Jesus Somosot Jr. and Cabreros, said the BOC would be making Phoenix a scapegoat lands in the face of administration of corruption confronting the agency.

"In my personal opinion, the government is losing much much (sacrificial lamb) so they maybe trying to cover up for something bigger," she said.

Another counsel, Neil Montejo, said the company became vulnerable because "while it is among the small ones, it has been very aggressive and on top of the heap." Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

From Ninoy to Noynoy:
25 Years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

From Ninoy to Noynoy: 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer charts the last 25 years of Philippine history through the pages, photos, editorials and events chronicled in the last quarter century's newspapers of record.

From the Cojuangco to the comic, and the many stacks in between, the Inquirer's 25th anniversary offering highlights the resilience and heroism of Filipinos through the swirling days of the Marcos dictatorship, the heady days of Edsa People Power I, the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of the early 1990s to the second Edsa People Power at the turn of the century. It ends in bolstering, as the sun of the world whose footsteps death quarter followed gloriously the country's 16th president.

Alongside the history of the "democratic project," the book is also the story of the Inquirer's growth in those years, from a paper flattered by a concerned engagement ring to a group of over a dozen publications with a presence on print, broadcast, online and mobile.

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San Pablo village chief gunned down

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A barangay chief of San Pablo City who was standing outside his residence was gunned down by a lone gunman on Monday, police said yesterday.

Billy Delima, 56, chief of Barangay II-B, suffered four bullet wounds in the body and died on the spot past 9 a.m., according to Supt. Ferdinand de Castro, city police chief.

Before the attack, Delima had been in front the Land Transportation Office in Barangay San Nicolas for an unspecified business.

He returned to his van to pick up some documents, Dr. Castro said.

The gunman stepped on board a motorcycle.

Police have yet to determine the motive. Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Chavit bus firm draws fine for disregard of disabled

BACOLOD CITY—For refusing to allow a man in crutches to use seats reserved for the disabled a year ago, a bus company servicing the Bacon region has been fined P50,000 and given a lesson in political correctness and etiquette.

Salvador Demanos, an employee of the Department of Public Works and Highways who cannot stand and walk without crutches, said he boarded a Baguio-bound Partas bus on July 18 last year from Bacnotan, La Union, but was told that he could not use designated seats for the handicapped as these were occupied.

Instead, Demanos was told to use seat No. 24 at the back of the bus, and was forced to sit uncomfortably because he could not unhook the orthopedic brace clamped around his left leg.

Lawyer Brenda Pelilat, legal officer of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) in the Cordillera, ruled on May 4 that Demanos's condition should have drawn the attention of conductor Ferdinen Tolangen Jr. or of driver Reynold Bontigao.

She penalized both employees and Partas Transportation Co. Inc. for violating Republic Act No. 7277 (Magna Carta for Disabled Persons). Partas is owned by the family of Bacolod Rep. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"I have been approached by certain persons to settle this matter amicably ... But I told them I had enough money to buy my own [food]. I just want the rules [on the rights of the disabled] to be followed," Demanos said.

"Because before this law [RA 7277], That had always irritated me. I was so ashamed sitting at the back row because I kept fidgeting each time my uniform [leg] shifted from because[sic] I kept bumping into a pole or [my] bottle [etc.]," he said.

Demanos said the disability symbol was not displayed when he boarded the bus. This was one of the issues he raised when he confronted Tolangen and Bontigao as soon as the bus neared Baguio.

He said the bus employees claimed that the symbol was melted beneath the seats, which were occupied by sleeping male passengers.

The conductor said Tolangen and Bontigao refused to wake up these guys and it would have been embarrassing to ask them to wake[sic] seats.

Ferman Dena, Partas vice president, told the DOTC on Aug. 9 he will not revise the fine had investigated the case. Chances said the decision made up for the negligence he suffered. Ainyett Gubaton, Inquirer Northern Luzon

More jeepneys join transport strike

By Carla P Gutiao
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—More public utility jeeps (PUJs) kept off the streets yesterday on the second day of a transport strike against fuel price disparity in Negros Occidental.

Bonior Supt. Rhondo de la Paz, city police chief, said at least 70 percent of PUJs did not ply their routes assigned to 9G percent on the first day of the strike on Monday.

Taxis and tricycles, however, continued to ply the streets.

Jesse Ortega, secretary general of the United Negros Drivers Operators Center (Undoc), said 85-90 percent of drivers in the province joined the strike.

Undoc, business groups and other sectors are protesting the prices of oil products in Negros Occidental, which are higher by P6 to P8 per liter than those in Silvers Manila.

The disparity has been established, according to Frank Carbon, president of the Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

High-flying Cardinals eye 3rd win vs Bombers

By Jeannine W. Poyo

SINUA THIO is three another big game from Filipino-American Yousef Taha when the Cardinals go for consecutive victories in the PBL/Flying V Hunts Cup today.

The Cardinals, running fourth in Group B, clash with a 2002 side coming off a record loss of 11 straight games in the PBL/Flying V Arena in San Juan.

"I'm very happy with Taha," Magna coach Chito Narciso said of the 6-foot-7 center, who tossed 14 points and pushed over the Lyceum Knights last Friday.

"He can now control his emotions."

University of the East, using a 2-3 record, goes for back-to-back victories versus Letran at 4 p.m., right after struggling rookie St. Benilde and Emilio Aguinaldo College caught at 2 p.m.

Aside from Taha, the Cardinals also drew big numbers from Allen Mangahas, who collected 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and Mark Sumagaysay, who posted 10 points and seven boards.

Narciso expects the Cardinals to duplicate their summary against the Bombers' Jan Sandy, who's off with a dislocated shoulder.

Meanwhile, PBL/Flying V Sports chair Joey Guillermo said yesterday that tickets to the Miss Elusive Asia 4 Gala Intimate Dinner and La Salle are now available at SM Tieket outlets at 470-2222 and at the venue gates.

Tickets for the Saturday night affair's top two subregion rivals will be sold separately from the 12 noon match between San Beda and University of Santo Tomas.

Lady Eagles capture 1st volley title

By Cedrill P. Tupas

ATENEO LADIES in long road for a Shakey's V-League title last night with a marvelous 24-26, 25-18, 25-23, 19-25, 15-11 victory over Adamson that completed a sweep of their best-of-three Season 8 first conference finals series at the FILOIL Flying V Arena in San Juan.

With a youthful crew displaying tenacity and poise, the Lady Eagles outlasted the Lady Falcons, storing their power game with a resolute defense that keyed their march to their first title since joining the league in Season 3.

Arguably the best player in the series at her age, 18-year-old Alyssa Valdez flashed a big-time attacking game, while Jamesa Rivera provided a composed performance and Thai import Bontree Laboon came through with decisive plays as the Lady Eagles wrapped up the title in two hours and 38 minutes.

"This is what we've been waiting to give back to the school ever since we started playing here," said Diane Gomez, the former star spiker tapped to coach Ateneo at the start of the conference.

"It's very fulfilling. We know we haven't been a winning team, but we were learning from all of those losses," added the first-year coach, who, at 25, is the league's youngest championship mentor and was quarterback of the Ateneo squad that lost to Adamson in the finals of the Season 5 late conference.

This was the first major volleyball title for Ateneo since the women's team won the NCAA title in the 1976-77 season.

Valdez and Rivera finished with 24 points each, while Ellie Gallagher had 18 points for the Lady Eagles. Rivera efficiently orchestrated the Ateneo attack with 46 excellent sets that keyed the 63 attack points of the Lady Eagles.

"Jem (RIVERA) has been the driving force for us," said Ateneo captain Valdez, who won best hitter honors. Most Valuable Player of the finals. "She's excellent."

Rivera converted championship-point setting drop to the center but Valdez also stood out in the deciding set with six points, including three straight attacks that gave the Eagles a 13-9 cushion.

"She pulled through for us," said Gomez, referring to Valdez, who was a guest player in the tournament since she was not eligible for the UAAP last season. "When it mattered, she didn't hold back."

Earlier, Baveloff's University of St. La Salle bounced the best finish by a provincial team in the V-League with a 25-19 sweep of Technical U to their series-opening victory.

The Lady Stingers scored a comprehensive 25-17, 25-21, 25-23 beating of the Lady Bulldogs, behind Sherri Dorado and Dory Jane Clemoran. With a report from Raul Gallogher

ATENEO'S Rachel Pacunayen thwarts Play Maximizers of Adamson in the third set. Myrna Jane Valdez is the Lady Eagles' top hitter.

Sumos buck suspensions, rip Cultivators

By Jeannine W. Poyo

SEO SORO Super Clue played like hardly anyone was missing as the homes rolled past the PCA Cultivators, 85-83, in the PBA D-League Foundation Cup yesterday at the Mercado Cyrus de Dasigan.

The former climbed the crucial win that featured their outright quarterfinal bid...even without head coach Pido Jarencio and Jonjon Calaina, who both served a one-game suspension for an on-court scuffle last Thursday.

Arimar Sinsuero drilled 12 of his game-high 21 points in the third quarter when the former erected a lead as high as 30 points, 71-41.

In the second game, early quarterfinalist SLEX rallied to an 81-81 tapping of Foreign Arena to wrap up its elimination stint with the best Group A record at 5-1.

Eric Salamat knocked in a key triple and the Road Warriors also raided four crucial free throws in the dying seconds, the last of which sealed shipped on Foreign coach Leo Austria for calling a timeout even the team had none left.

Calaina-Abanes led with 20 points and Eljo Ismanik and Salamat had 18, including the clutch trey that gave the Road Warriors an 81-80 lead with 42.3 seconds left.

Jarencio and Calaina were suspended along with Cebuana Lhuillier coach Luigi Trillo and player Ariel Mojares for instigating an altercation last week's brush-off involving members.

SLEX and FC Gilmore already claimed the two outright quarterfinal berths in Group A, while only Cebuana Lhuillier has picked up the necessary in Group B.

The Sumos can eliminate homes FCGilmo Inc. as against the team in the final game of the classification phase next Tuesday. With reports from Anna Gari G. Bueno and April Aquino

PSC plans SEA Games contingent downsizing

By Jose Noguera

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission wants to reduce the number of national athletes and officials serving notice to the Southeast Asian Games to ease the burden of financing the contingent's participation.

PSC Chair Richie Garcia said yesterday that the government agency can only spend for the next of 3000 to 4000 athletes and officials—almost of the total 5000 planned by the national sports commission—for this year's Games in Indonesia.

Garcia said that according to estimates, the government sports agency would need to set aside about P100,000 for each member of the delegation, or P66 million for an 800-strong contingent.

The PSC earmarked only P50 million for the country's participation in the Games slated on June 11 to 23 in Jakarta and Palembang.

"If we're going to be strict with the budget, we have to reduce the number [of athletes]," said Garcia. "The expenses could reach far more P66 million and P100 million."

A total of 5452 gold medals in 44 sports are at stake in the 13 nation-competition, making the event the biggest in SEA Games history.

GARCIA

"That number [5000 or 6000] is more reasonable," added Garcia. "The way things are going, that should be the direction we should take."

The joint committee of the PSC and the Philippine Olympic Committee has not laid down the criteria for the selection of athletes.

Garcia said the committee has been monitoring the athletes' progress in local and international tournaments to determine if they deserve to be in Indonesia.

Previously, SEA Games medalists had the inside track to border in the national delegation.

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POC chair bats for Pacquiao monument

By Cedrill P. Tupas

MANNY PACQUIAO should have a statue put up in the country to symbolize the exploits of the Filipino.

Philippine Olympic Committee chair Monico Puentevella made that suggestion yesterday and said the statue could be built within Rizal Park in Manila or at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Folk Arts Theater grounds.

Puentevella said the POC Pantheon of Athletes (24 statues that the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex could also be a possible site of the statue, as well as the Ayala Park in Makati and the Ateneo Center in Quezon City.

"He's the symbol of excellence in every Filipino," said the POC official, who also broached the possibility of Pacquiao competing in the country's flag in next year's London Olympics.

"In my capacity as POC chair, and as friend to Pacquiao, I recommend that we include him on like the one they build for (Oscar) De La Hoya, (Michael) Jordan, Joe Louis and Muhammad Ali," Puentevella said.

The former congressman also said as the latest sponsored by Smart, Bigcit, Global Imsway and Hadary's that the government should have the first option in putting up the statue.

ICTSI ORCHARD GOLF

Bayron sets out as heavy favorite

By Marcus B. Cuerdo

JAY BAYRON looms as the heavy favorite when a crack field tees it up in the ICTSI Orchard Golf champ. outing in Cavite today, but that's a week after his compatriots stand at the Philippines.

The former safely-bum Davao ace and the hopes of a country national this afternoon only to fall short by a shot and lose to American Barry Hinson in the $300,000 Asian Tour event.

"I feel good and confident of my chances at Orchard," Bayron said in Filipino. "But the field is strong and anybody can win."

A handful of foreign bets have enlisted for the P2.5 million event, including Asian Tour regular Prah Udon-

BAYRON

thai, the titanic of the country's crop led by Jeric Magsaysay, Angelo Que and the amateur Frankie Minoza who will be defending. He topped Tony Lascuna in a three-hole playoff last year to snatch long-winded spell.

The tournament, organized by Philippine Golf Tournaments Inc., is backed by MJ Cuy Golf Management, Xinxin, Callaway Golfsh, Titleist, Cutrose Clubmakers, Mizuno, PrimaGolfer.com, Dunlop Golf, A Brand of Golf, Srixon-Z-Star, Bally, and Dynamic Sports.

Organizers have pegged the prize pot at P2.5 million...more than double the P1 million stashed in each leg in the last three years...to entice the foreign players who played in the Asian Tour.

Australians Matt Gosling and Nathan Rehnert are also entered.

Paganian won the traditional Pro-Am yesterday and will play alongside Al Cruz and Lawrence Sibayan at 11:20 a.m. starting at No. 1, while Que will be in the group that also has Sibay Eagles and Bayron 11:10 a.m. on No. 10.

Mihara is grouped with fellow former PH Open winner Robert Rochelle and amateur Xuan Boy Gaston at 7:30 a.m. on No. 1.

Integrity Run kicks off May 29 at Global City

SOPHO to raise awareness on the fight against corruption, the business community and leading government agencies will join forces for the staging of the Integrity Run on May 29 at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

About 5,000 runners are expected to participate in the event, dubbed "I Run For Integrity Towards A New Philippines," which will have four race divisions—10, 5K, 10K and 15K.

"All the participants are united in one campaign," said Henry Schumacher, Integrity Initiative project director, in yesterday's weekly Pilot Forum. "We want to see the Philippines to be seen in the region as having an ethical and progressive business environment."

"Through this undertaking, we hope to combat bribery and eliminate other forms of corruption," said Integrity initiative chair Emmanuel Buenaseda.

The campaign has drawn support from more than 100 firms. C. P. Pajon

PBA All-Star festivities get going in Boracay

By Jun Navarro

GUY REYES has won two straight titles with his Talk 'N Text Tropang Texters this season. And it would be nice to add the PBA All-Star game to his trophy case.

The TNT scorer will lead the South team's payback bid against the stars from the North in the centerpiece show of the "Vida Bois PBA 2011 All-Star Weekend" set to tip off today in Boracay.

Reyes, now a four-time all-star coach, will have a deep pool of stars at his disposal.

The South squad, out to redeem itself from a 138-131 loss to the North last year, will be loaded by league MVP Arwind Santos, the high scoring gunner in the club's seven games, Jay Washington, Cyrus Baguio and TNT's Jimmy Alapag and Kelly Williams.

Reyes, whose Tropang Texters bagged the Philippine Cup, nailed his second title in a row two weeks ago at the expense of the Barangay Ginebra Kings in six games of their best-of-seven series in the import-based Commissioner's Cup.

Another crown in the tournament's Cup set to begin next month and Reyes will complete a grand slam, something no coach has won in the last 15 years.

Alaska's Tim Cone was the last coach to answer a grand slam when his Aces swept the 1996 season.

The coach's for this year's annual classic are the protagonists of the Philippine Cup, San Miguel Beer's duo Arguelles, the all-Filipino runner-up, will coach the North.

Alaska bubbly 6-3 sniper Jacob enjoys the bonus was introduced in 1992.

Arguelles and his North All-Stars are seeking to duplicate last season's victory with the help of Giuseppe backcourt tandems of Willie Miller and Mark Cardona, Derby Ace's Marc Pingris and Kerby Raymundo and reigning All-Star MVP Asi Taulava-Sta Rosa of Air21.

Dalton Shaw-Globalport, Arwind Santos and Rabeh Al-Hussaini, the only rookie who made it in this year's All-Star game, were also online selections for Agustin.

The Sophomores and Rookies went up in the 30th Game on Saturday at the Boracay Convention Center.

There will also be the usual slam dunk contest and three-point shootout in the five day event backed by Coca-Cola, Talk 'N Text, Meralco, Nuns, Alas Nina, Smart, Accel, Mobiline, Manny Ram or Shine and Powerade.

THE 'DALAGDIS' Lingos will root as Alexis Barcarse's last shoulder to cry for

WEST SHOWDOWN

Rested Mavs face Thunder

NEW YORK—A young Oklahoma City team takes on the Texas championships of Dallas in a Western showdown between the Thunder and Thunder starting Tuesday, with the survivor heading on to the NBA Finals.

Dirk Nowitzki, the clutch scoring dynamo for the Dallas Mavericks, will be pitted against the league's 22-year-old scoring champion Kevin Durant in a best-of-seven series for the Western Conference crown.

Dallas, 57-25 in the regular season, won two out of three against Oklahoma City (55-27) during the regular season, but the class is clear in the playoffs with both sides boasting for a chance to play for the league title.

The Mavericks, who lost the 2006 NBA Finals to the Miami Heat and flopped out of every post-season since, are gunning for their maiden championship in their 31st season.

The Thursday who relocated to Oklahoma City for in 2008, are in the conference final for the franchise's first time since losing the 1996 NBA Finals as the Seattle SuperSonics.

The 33-year-old Nowitzki and his crew of over-30 hardwood partners are coming off a

MAVERICK Dirk Nowitzki (41) is expected to lead Dallas in the Western Conference finals.

sweep of the rather debunking champion Los Angeles Lakers and will have had nine days of rest when they host the Thunder in the series opener.

Nowitzki, a 7-foot 12-13 (81, Rookie and All-Star and 2007 NBA Most Valuable Player) has been brilliant in the postseason.

The German forward has averaged 26.5 points on 49.7 percent shooting in a challenge of future that spreads the floor and shares the ball with sublime passing.

Oklahoma City needed every point to outside the Memphis Grizzlies' last pounds in an their side to hostile back.

Nowitzki's

Adventure race awaits hoop stars, beauty queens

By Jasmine W. Paje

THE PBA stars put their skills to a different level of test when the Creality Race Adventure 2011 stages to kick off leg in the PBA All-Stars on Boracay Island this weekend.

Nine teams, each composed of two PBA players and one Maligaya Pilipinas candidate, will train on various physical and mental challenges in the race day adventure race starting this Saturday.

Basketball stars, a fashion show, beach games and other cute activities have also been lined up in the five-day extravaganza dubbed Vida Bois, "for it's the country's best super-couple in the Manila versus South All-Star game at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Boracay Eco-Village Resort and Convention Center.

"On the court and off the court, we want it to be fun for the players," Carlo Quevedo, the Race & Shine adventure promoter also serving as event organizer, said during the race launch on Friday, day-night at the Eastwood Richmonde Hotel in Libis.

The Creality Race, named on the US reality hit show "Amazing Race," the Philippine version will see the teams racing with compete in tasks testing their wit, strength, agility and speed.

Other legs of the event will be staged this year in Pampanga, Cebu, Bacolod and Manila and feature more celebrities and athletes.

Camille Gallego will be the benefactor of the race backed by L Time Studio, Penta Time, PCGillmore, Phaberon Electronics cyan and Specs Center, Island Souvenir, Casa Filar and Epic Bar.

"The PBA is a good vehicle for helping the money," said Quevedo, who's also the president and CEO of Grit Events Asia, the official event host partner of the PBA All-Stars.

Cash prizes, plaques and giveaways await the race's top three teams.

PBA stars from different teams and candidates of the Maligaya Pilipinas do a mock tug of war at the launch of the Creality Race Adventure 2011 at Eastwood Richmonde Hotel.

One big velodrome

ONE GAME AT A TIME

By Sev Sarmenta

AMSTERDAM—A sports journalist isn't only writing about sports. Sometimes if the journey to another country is not related to sports, travels and writings' profiles.

In bicycle mecca the streets of Amsterdam, I realize that the city is one big velodrome. In either short or distant sojourns, the bench are taken to go everywhere.

You see commuters on the bicycle for bicycles as you cross the streets, careful not to run a rider or they'll smooch. The Dutch are safe cyclists, though, as they negotiate the small streets and dodge the unannounced tourists.

The bicycles are not the racing bikes we see in the velodrome. Being in the Summer Olympic time bikers are old-timers, functional, and others with a basket to throw on at the back to collect groceries shopping bags. There are many kids riding bikes that are easily be seen at his easy-to-ring bells' tones.

So why didn't Manila become a bicycle town, given that we have relatively level streets like Holland and Paris?

Its bicycle frontage can probably give us a better explanation and I will definitely take this up with the popular bikers.

Sunal is a bicycle town and they may have picked this up from the French. So, why not Manila?

Many of our city traffic and pollution problems could be reduced if we were less dependent on fossil fuel to power around the township through cars for the reasons why we don't ride bikes to work. Arriving sweaty and disheveled after pedaling pedals may not exactly be the best way to make a good impression at work.

Now let's say we're a little ashamed to say we will yes, distant students want to attend a term planner, recover here to nonetheless. But trust me that in a moment, a speedy connection will be made.

Like many key European cities, nonetheless is a source of green wonder of art and music. The place is, after all, the home of the masterpieces of Van Gogh, Mozart and Rembrandt.

But classical music is also a big thing here.

Our former obligation to attend to delightful programs of Bach and Debussy given at the Concert Gebouw. It has been Donald van der Heyden, a tall and lean young man, recently divorced for the bachelor masters.

The hall packs about 700. It has been permanent to make to 100 more but, think of the movie "Amadeus" for a moment and you'll get the picture. Clearly, the music provides a unique experience for us to flourish and be appreciated by avid music and acoustics critic.

Now here's the sports connection. A pleasure to watch on the keys is like a beauty as he jabs left and right, looks concentrically to reach a key and lunges at times to accentuate a beautiful tune.

Van der Heyden's hand looks up and down as the notes rise and fall. There's even footwork as the pianist attempts to portray a tune by emphasis or to end a piece. Such touch on the tender makes a clear connection.

It was like seeing Manny Pacquiao. Just like a champion boxer, a great pianist's work is the result of countless hours of rehearsing or training until it becomes second nature to his body.

Pacquiao's 1-0 complex takes in minutes, crafted with years of hard work in conjunction his numerous talents, too. Dante's we will always cherish.

Smart Gilas eyes Champs' Cup finals slot

By Jun Navarro

BRENT GILAS PILIPINAS has never made it past the quarterfinals of the Fiba Asia Champions Cup.

With a partisan crowd set to rally behind them, the Nationals are expected to underscore how this time around.

Coach Rajko Toroman and the PBA five will meet their hosts made in the Pasig quintet Sunday at Rizal in the opener of the 22nd Fiba Asia Champions Cup on May 28 at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

Gmur Gilas is in a less threatening bracket that also includes MEC of Jordan, Dubai of Iraq and Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur Tengaras, and a quarterfinal berth is easily within reach—but that's not what the Nationals are eyeing.

"We're aiming for a Finals appearance and see what happens from there," said Toroman, whose team finished fifth and seventh in the past two editions of the continental club championships.

The silver group will have back-to-back champion Mahram of Iran, reigning West Asia league and Lebanese champion Al-Riyadi of Lebanon, Taipei's Taishin, Al Shabab of United Arab Emirates and Qatar's Al Rayyan, last year's runner-up.

"We know the Filipino people are nostalgic to watch and cheer for us and we don't want to disappoint them," said Toroman.

After the hassle, Smart Gilas have the Singapore, whose team will include two ex-Fil-foreigners and a number of Filipino imports.

Relay run kicks off safety campaign

MARATHON champions led by Cris Sakai and Elbora Tolentino carry the banner of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

MARATHON CHAMPIONS Cris Sakai, Bey Amoque and Elbora Tolentino led scatterings of runners, cars and motorcycles, in a 28-km relay run that started at Rizal Park and ended at AOB Avenue in Pasig City recently during the global launch of the UN's Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

Manila chief of staff Ricardo de Guzman, representing Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, handed over the city flag to Bert Hunting, executive director of the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP) in a symbolic turnover signifying Manila's support to the project that aims to promote public awareness on making the streets more thoroughfares safer for motorists, commuters and pedestrians.

A total of 10 relay stations were set up throughout the course—representing each year of the project. Each relay team, running in four minutes per kilometer, carried the road safety pledge and passed it onto the next group of runners.

President Aquino has signed Proclamation No. 150 calling for support and adherence to the 10-year implementation of road safety initiatives of the United Nations.

ESS, UST spikers triumph

ELIZABETH MCTOY Ishoot pulled off a pair of wins set-scores to hurdle its opening day assignments in the girls and boys' division of the Dunkin' Big Donk high school beach volleyball tournament over the weekend at the University of the East sand volleyball courts in Manila.

The ESS spikers mustered fierce second-set hangup to dominate their rivals from the University of the East, 12-25, 25-17, 15-11, to lead the winners to the Girls II of the inaugural tournament which drew 23 teams, including 13 in the girls side.

The ESS boys' runners, on the other hand, battled back from an opening set loss and trounced host St. Jude Students, 2-11, 15-9, 15-6, to gain the early lead in Boys II play of the event put up by Dunkin' Donuts in front the sport and discover young talents.

Joining ESS in the Girls II lead was University of Santo Tomas, which turned back a gritty Centro-cet side, 5-11, 15-6, 15-10, in the other encounter, as it was backed by Shakey's, UAC, Tony's Sports, Wilkins, Asics, Mighty Sports and Metro Sports.

Greenhills run listing still open

INTERESTED RUNNERS who want to join the 14 Greenhills Village Run slated on Sunday, May 22, will have only until today, May 20, to send in their reserves for the few remaining runner slots at the Phase Sports Tatacao in Quezon City. Phase Sports Vivo Hall in San Juan City and at the Administration Bldg. of North and Northeast Green-hills Association.

With an entry fee pegged at P600, the limited 1,000 participants are slated a simple upon registration with all finishers receiving Greaters Necklaces, Hexatwin Energy Drink and HAM energy-saving bulbs.

Organizers are advising all participants to be at the assembly area at La Salle street of Northeast Greenhills not later than 5 a.m. Race starts at 5:30 a.m. Expected to grace the awarding ceremonies and the firing of the starters gun are members of the board of North and Northeast Greenhills.

JuanMa: I know how to beat Manny

By Ray Luarca

THEIR THIRD bout were a revealing Juan Manuel Marquez says he has a blueprint on how to fight and win against Manny Pacquiao when they clash on Nov. 12 in Las Vegas.

Marquez, the WBA and WBC lightweight champion who remembered for giving the quite two of his toughest fights yet, revealed his fight strategy to Inquirer.net on Monday.

"You have to match his rhythm," said Marquez. "You have to match his speed with speed, and when he throws punches, you have to counter punch with the same velocity."

Marquez knows whereof he speaks.

The future Hall of Famer survived three first round knockdowns to forge a draw with Pacquiao in their first meeting in 2004. In their second fight in 2008, he was knocked down in the third round and lost to the Filipino superstar by split decision.

MARQUEZ

Pacquiao now moved up several weight classes to post a record eight world titles in as many divisions, while Marquez climbed a notch from the 130-pound class.

Marquez acknowledged in the fourteen-rounds report that he would be facing a different Pacquiao this time.

"Pacquiao has improved," said the 37-year-old Marquez. "He has improved his right hand and even it well. You would see it in his last fight against Shane Mosley."

Pacquiao, a southpaw who developed his right hand into a lethal weapon, knocked down Mosley in the third round on the way to a unanimous decision victory at Mar 7.

Meanwhile, Golden Boy Promotions on Monday failed to match the lucrative offer made by Top Rank Promotions for Marquez to face Pacquiao at a catch weight of 144 lb for the Filipino's IBO welterweight title.

Top Rank chief Bob Arum, through his lawyers, had sent a formal offer to GBP Security, even though GBP's promotional agreement with Marquez expired Monday it still exercised the option until February next year to match any offer made to Marquez.

Apparently, GBP and Top Rank reached an agreement that would free Marquez to fight Pacquiao. However, no one on either side is prepared to reveal any details at this point.

Under the Top Rank offer, Marquez would get a guaranteed $5 million purse plus $5 for every pay-per-view buy above 700,000. There was also a rematch provision in case Marquez won which would guarantee him a purse of $10 million. With a report from Ronnie Nathaniel

'Bata' nails US Open one-pocket pool title

By Ronnie Nathanielsz

LAS VEGAS, Nevada — Filipino veteran Rodolfo "Bata" Reyes assigned up some old fashioned magic to win the US Open One Pocket Championships at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Reyes' smashing 5-2 win over American Christopher Gerdik in the single-set finals earned him $8,000.

Filipino Caroline Alex Pagulayan finished fourth.

The 56-year-old Reyes went undefeated in the 64-player tournament to become the 12th US Open One Pocket champ.

Gerdik rather beat Mike Davis, 4-1, Rafael Martinez, 4-3, and Earl Strickland, 4-3.

The One Pocket event, which has the player making the break choosing a hot corner pocket for the rest of the game, featured, according to AZ Billiards, some of the best of the old school and the strongest of the new aficionados.

San Diego still perfect in Asian Youth chess

SUBIC—Rising star Bhabe Aminbeyim San Diego booted Bakhrom Abdusamyonov of Uzbekistan on Tuesday to lead the Philippine charge in the 2011 Asian Youth Chess Championships at the Subic Bay Travelers Hotel.

It was the lead's straight win for San Diego, worked third to last among 24 crews, who grabbed the sole lead with a perfect 4.0 points to the girls 12 years old and under category.

San Diego kept her half point lead over two time world under 8 champion Matias Ivana Tomasko, conqueror of fellow Indian Kaindoni Priyamvada, going into their fifth round showdown.

Samantha Ella Bevita dumped Dinara Omyrbekova of Kyrgyzstan and Chatlotte Pam clipped Bi Phing of Macau to prop up their bid in the same category.

Also in strong contention in Cherry Ann Mejia, who beat Shengzi Qui of China to boost her total to 3.5 points in the girls 14 under bracket.

After sweeping his first three matches in the boys 16 under division, Jan Emmanuel Garcia settled for a draw with No. 4 seed Hernando Vicente Gordon of Aruba.

Other fourth round results saw Alvin John Tutia thwart Hakmat Ahmeer of Kyrgyzstan and Joey Albert Florendo conquer R.L. Owens of Sri Lanka in the boys 18 under category; Dave Patrick Dolay bacila Immanuel Jardillier of Iran in the boys 14 under; Daryl Ling Yi Seattle of Aruba; Orth Bigmaster of Uzbekistan and Daniel John Lim beat Tsogbayar Bayarbinat of Mongolia in the boys 12 under.

Pangasinan's Prince Mark Aquino, who toppled seventh seed Nguyen Van Hai of Vietnam in the third round, bowed to Jahongir Yakhshiev of Uzbekistan in the boys 18 under class and stayed at 2.5 points.

Two-time Olympian Christine Christine Gamache yielded to Hoang Thi Nha of Vietnam in the girls 16 under and shared sixth to eighth places with 2.5 points. Ray Luarca

SPORTSWATCH

Pasay 4-cock derby Friday

ALL UNITS (8 entries are expected to participate in the Christine and Angelo 4 Cock Derby this Friday at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Last Friday's Sabong fast 4-Cock Derby staged a 5K flight at the same venue, with the entry "Tatay Ando" of Ferdinand Ando Aquino Salvador, emerging as champion.

PCC marketing manager Charles Pelaez and Angelo Estrellado are hosting today's event. Entry fee is P11,000. All entries must be presented at the PCC office on Thursday from 12 p.m.

Osang's 5-cocker tomorrow

With 100 cockers from Metro Manila using the backyard Champion 4-Cock Derby set to be held tomorrow at the Vicente Sotto's Avenue in Pasay Road and Jose Rizal Cockers of the Year Osang Mike Cruz will be hosting by fellow members from the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines, National Cockers Alliance, Pinoy Cockers, and the Rizal Game cock Breeders Association.

The derby features more than 100 fights which will be supervised by WTG Sports and Leisure Corp.

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DID YOU KNOW

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education (CHED) was created 12 years ago, on May 15, with the approval of Republic Act No. 7722 or the Higher Education Act of 1994. Its creation was part of proposals to divide the education sector into three governing bodies: CHED for tertiary and graduate education, Department of Education for basic education, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority for technical-vocational and middle-level education.

Zuhairi Bondoc, Inquirer Research

DPWH: Replace road barriers

By Philip C. Tubeza

PUBLIC Works Secretary Rogelio Singson yesterday called for the removal of concrete barriers from Metro Manila roads, particularly Commonwealth Avenue.

Singson said that Australian and South Korean experts hired by the government had recommended the move, one of several suggestions they made to improve safety on the country's major thoroughfares.

"The experts suggested [that] maybe we should have softer barriers—plastic and rubberized. Why is there a need for it to be concrete and hard?" he said.

"Maybe it's already overkill. In fact, I even think [concrete barriers] pose a hazard. You don't [want] have to be [traveling at] high speed. At 60 kilometers per hour, it can be fatal if you hit a solid barrier or solid structure," Singson added.

According to him, the road safety experts were conducting an assessment of Commonwealth Avenue, U.N. Ave. and Quirino Avenue and would release their findings next week.

He further said that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) had written the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) about the U-turn slots in the metropolis.

"The U-turn slots are good for a certain volume of traffic but not ... in all situations," he said.

"We pointed [to] actual studies we made about [Tandang sa] Quirino Avenue [and Quezon Boulevard [that were] too close," leading to heavy traffic, he added.

Singson also observed that the south-bound lane of the Edsa-Ayala underpass go up to the Santo nos problemado becomes it narrows down from four lanes to just two.

"Obviously the design of that underpass was wrong. They should [have] put four approaches long before it narrows down to two lanes. Otherwise, motorists would be surprised," he said.

The DPWH chief added that they had already forwarded their recommendations to MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino.

"I have talked to him about it. In fact, we've really been discussing how to improve Commonwealth [Avenue]. They will look into our suggestions," he said.

"At the end of the day, it's their responsibility. Ours is the engineering interventions," he added.

LTFRB gets tough on bus firms resisting gov't inventory

Comelec: Lim's claim of victory premature

By Jerome Aning

THE CLAIM made by the camp of Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim that he won overwhelmingly over Liberal Lito Atienza, in last year's mayoral election based on the results of a manual account of ballots premature, an official of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said yesterday.

"The final figures of the manual recount have yet to be presented before us for our appreciation. We have 15 days to make a ruling," Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, Vice Division Chair, said in a phone interview.

Sarmiento said the results disclosed by Lim's camp were "unofficial" although he did not refute the figures Lim claimed that he garnered 65,275 votes compared to Atienza's 59,040 based on a recount of the evidence in 300 of the city's 1,411 polling precincts.

Under Comelec rules, a protesting candidate may call for a recount of 20 percent of the precincts—about 300 in Manila...in short that there were substantial discrepancies or anomalies in the counting and results.

According to Sarmiento, Atienza's camp may still file a motion to recount the results from the rest of the polling precincts in Manila although he said that should the report on the results of the initial recount of 300 ballot boxes be presented, the division may already come out with a ruling rejecting or dismissing the protest of the right wing Atienza protester, more evidence of fraud.

In an earlier interview, Atienza told the business that he would push for a recount of the rest of the ballot cast in the city's 1,411 polling precincts.

By Paolo G. Montecillo

TEN MANEUVER bus companies may face sanctions for refusing to submit their buses to a government inventory aimed at determining which of their units are operating in Metro Manila without a franchise.

In a statement, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said that the 10 companies which were operating a total of 2,732 buses had been asked to explain their refusal to cooperate with the government.

The firms account for about 30 percent of passenger buses operating in Metro Manila, excluding those with carmarking routes in the provinces.

Transportation Secretary Jose de Jesus said that the inventory of buses, done in October last year, was "necessary to identify passenger buses operating illegally."

The companies that refused to submit themselves to the government audit were ABE Liner, Novenia Express, Admiral Transport, Hi Hat, Matanday Transport, California Bus Line, Genesis Transport, Bus Operators Transport Service Coop and Meridian Bus operated Roberto A. Barrera and Josephine Lopez.

The government has blasted colorum buses for the heavy traffic on Metro Manila's major thoroughfares. Illegal buses also compete with legitimate units for passengers, reducing the revenue of legal bus operators.

Under the audit, government personnel will inspect the records of bus companies to determine if these are properly registered.

LTFRB Chair Helen Lahoz said that based on the agency's records, a total of 12,689 passenger buses operate within the metropolis. Of the figure, 2,732 units ply Edsa; 1,500 buses other routes; 4,300 are provincial buses which can travel on Edsa to get to their terminals while the rest are provincial buses which are not allowed on Edsa.

He said that around 80 percent or 9,957 out of the total number of buses had already been included in the LTFRB inventory.

As for the 10 companies, Lahoz said that the board had recommended their operators to explain their refusal to subject their buses to checks.

According to the LTFRB chief, noncompliance with the inventory may lead to the cancellation of the franchise issued to the bus company.

QC prosecutors oppose transfer move of Dominguez brothers

By Julie M. Aurelio

LUCENA: they were unaware of plans to move the Dominguez brothers from the Quezon City Jail to Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City, prosecutors on the inquest investigation case yesterday opposed a court order authorizing the transfer.

"We were surprised as we didn't know there was a request for the transfer and we were not given a chance to comment on it," Assistant City Prosecutor Irene Reservation said.

Judge Ma. Luisa Padilla of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 215 on May 6 directed the transfer of Raymond and Ropel Dominguez and Jason Miranda, who have been linked in the murder of Evangeline, a car dealer, to the Bicutan Manila District Jail (MMDJ).

The commitment order was to the Quezon City Jail yesterday afternoon came after jail warden Supt. Joseph Vela requested the court to transfer the three to the MMDJ.

Unaware

But a check with both the private complainant and the defense lawyers showed that both parties seemed to be unaware of the issuance of the commitment order or plans to transfer the accused.

"No, we didn't know there was a request for the transfer. I only learned about it upon receiving inquiries from the media," said the victim's father, Arsenio.

The Dominguezes' lawyer, Jerry Cruz, also said he had not received a copy of the commitment order, although he was aware of the jail warden's request.

SUSPECTED CARJACK gang leader Raymond Dominguez

"We have to file the necessary objections. If they are indeed high risk prisoners, why were they transferred from the Quezon Jail Center (in Camp Crame) to the city jail?" Cruz said.

The lawyer recalled that he had expressed misgivings to transfer his clients to the Quezon City Jail but the court ruled in favor of transferring them to the city jail.

In the urgent appeal, the prosecution, through Reservation and city prosecutor Imelda Lee, argued that they were not informed of the request and that they never had given a chance to comment on it.

Request

The request was sent to Executive Judge Fernando Asperas on May 5 by warden Vela who asked for an order for the transfer. The letter was forwarded to Padilla after which the court issued the commitment order.

The prosecution, in its motion, said the court relied on the PNP's claim that there was a security threat to the transfer.

"The jail warden merely couched his concern in general terms without specifying how he perceived the accused in this case to be facing security concerns. It is highly doubtful and unrealistic why all the accused have to be transferred to Bicutan when all other accused being charged of capital crimes remain inside the city jail," it added.

The prosecution said the Dominguez brothers and Miranda "should not be favored and given special treatment" simply because of claims that they are high risk inmates.

For his part, Cruz maintained that the transfer to the MMDJ would greatly inconvenience Raymond in particular as he is attending 19 cases in Bulacan province alone, not counting the cases filed in Pampanga province.

The Dominguez brothers and Miranda are facing six theft with homicide charges for the abduction and brutal slaying of Evangeline in Antonio.

QC barangay holds 1st successful initiative vs squatters, drugs

By Jerome Aning

A QUEZON City barangay conducted on Saturday the country's first successful local initiative stopping the construction of illegal informal settlers and the sale of illegal drugs in their community.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said 468 registered voters of Barangay Milagrosa in southeastern Quezon City voted in favor of the ordinance, while 289 voted against it.

The turnout, however, was poor, with only 954 out of 1,665 voters in the barangay casting their ballots.

Milagrosa, a barangay in Project 4 in Quezon City's third district, is located near the intersection of P. Tuazon Boulevard and Katipunan Avenue. According to the National Statistics Office website, the barangay had a population of 4,029 in 2007.

The initiative was the first held under the 1987 Constitution, Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said.

"There were many initiatives, both local and national, that were started in the past years but those did not prosper. This is the first initiative that did," he said in an interview.

The Comelec official recalled previous "failures," such as the two people's initiatives to amend the Constitution and another calling for the abolition of the Pambansa oil depot in Manila.

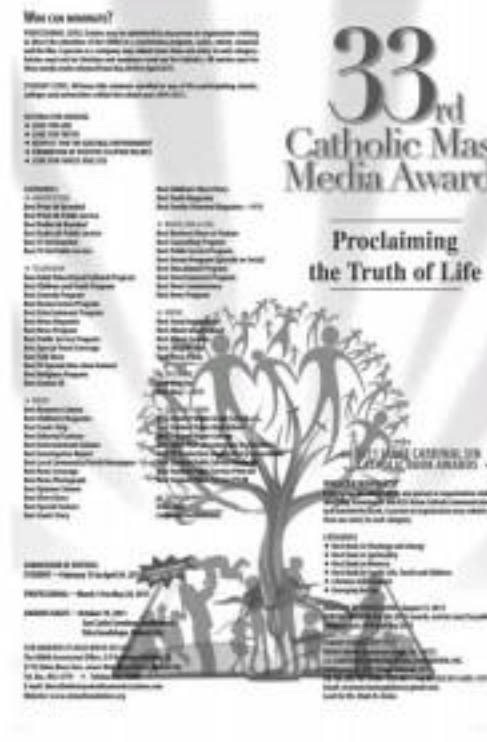
The poll body even promulgated several resolutions detailing a calendar of activities, including, among others, figure and grain limits, and an information campaign period from May 9 to 12.

Republic Act No. 6735, or the Initiative and Referendum Act of 1989, regulates national and local initiatives.

The law says that if a proposition is approved by a majority of the votes cast, it shall take effect 15 days after certification by the Comelec "as if affirmative action has been made by the local legislative body and local executive concerned."

In barangays, a minimum of 50 voters can propose any measure to the Sangguniang Barangay or village council.

If the Sangguniang fails to act favorably on the measure, the proponents may invoke their power of initiative and inform the Comelec and Department of Interior and Local Government.



Charges filed vs no-show lawmen

By Jayenon V. Garcia

SIX MEMBERS of the Manila Police District (MPD) were charged in court yesterday after they failed to show up in court to testify for the prosecution several cases filed by authorities against drug suspects.

The charges of violation of Section 91 of the Dangerous Drugs Act were filed with the Manila Regional Trial Court by the MPD General Assignments Section.

Section 91 seeks imprisonment of 12 to 20 years and a fine of P500,000 for law enforcers who, despite notification, fail to show up in prosecution witness-stand hearings of cases either intentionally or by negligence.

Based on the complaint, Police Officer 3 Eduardo Hidalgo, Dennis Ibanez and PO2 Eddie Alvarez failed to testify in the "People vs. Ramelo" Wednesday case" which resulted in its dismissal.

The failure of PO2 Ferwen Ilao to appear during the hearings for the "People vs. Joseph Gamorao" case also led to the case being dismissed. Also charged were PO2 Julius Pangan and PO1 Ernani Miranda.

METROBRIEFS

Trader loses P1.7 million to burglars

ABOUT P1.7 million was lost around P1.7 million worth of cash and valuables when robbers broke into his house in Quezon City while he was away on Sunday, police report said. The case was the third burglary involving traders since March. SPO2 Christopher Pesayco of the Quezon City Police District said burglars entered the house of Manuel De on Engineering Street in Cubao, Kalayaan, Barangay Sangandaan. They took P1.5 million in cash, gold, 22 pistol, a diamond ring, several cellphones and jewelry. Bruno Lagunzad, a driver's license and the expensive padlock of the gate. The police said the victim discovered the burglary after he came home at around 2 p.m. According to the trader, he left his house at 10 a.m. to have lunch with relatives. Based on an investigation, the robbers used to the victim's house via Tandang Sora which they parked in front of the gate. Nancy C. Carvajal

Woman arrested for stealing candy

MANILA policemen arrested on Monday afternoon a 59-year-old woman with a secret tooth after she stole two packs of candy from a grocery store in Binondo, Manila. Leonora Santos, a resident of Santan Street in Sampaloc, Manila, was arrested after taking two packs of candy worth P298 from Ellal's Grocery at Benavidez Street at around 1.30 p.m. on Monday, PO3 Bernardo Bonalos, case investigator of the Manila Police District (MPD) Station 11, said that Santos pretended to be a customer but a clerk caught her taking her bags of candy which she placed inside a bag she was carrying. Jun F. Pamacha

Rob suspect killed in shoot-out

ONE OF TWO suspected robbers was killed before dawn yesterday in a shoot-out with policemen after a brief chase in Manila. The unidentified suspect was killed around 3:30 a.m. after the two, clad in T-shirt and short pants, fled. He was dressed in a black T-shirt with long sleeves and denim pants. Supt. James Abella, Manila Police District (MPD) Station 3 commander, said the men had several stations of several names. Lt. Sgt. Mario Ramon, Wilson Chua, Malcolm, Supt and Norman Sevilla on his chest and back. Abella added that the men and another suspect had been monitored by operatives formed by the Manila City Hall Avenue. Some of the passengers, however, spotted a police car near the LRT Bambang Station and shouted for help. A chase ensued, leading to a shoot-out at the corner of Dimasalang and Bambang Streets in Sta. Cruz. One of the robbers was killed while the other escaped. Recovered from the slain man was a cal. .38 revolver and a bag taken from one of the jeepney passengers. Jamonsito I. Andrade

NCRPO launches complaint hotlines

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has launched a way for the public to submit their complaints to authorities by creating text lines. Chief Supt. Alan Purisima, NCRPO director, said that with the hotline, the police would not have any more reason for not taking action on problems raised by the public. "Policemen who will not provide immediate action on the complaints submitted to us by the public can be subjected to disciplinary action," he said. Residents of a probe conference in Camp Crame yesterday. Purisima added that the public can also use the text messaging hotline to report wrong policemen. On the other hand, the police will be able to send progress reports on complaints through SMS. The public can forward their complaints and tips to the NCRPO by texting 0915-4999151 and 0999-5068161. To discourage pranksters, however, texters will be required to register. "Prank messages will cause the unnecessary deployment of police troops," Purisima said. Each report received will be verified, according to NCRPO spokesperson Senior Supt. Dionardo Carlos. Alexis Romero

FINAL JOURNEY Mass space shuttle Endeavour lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center on May 16 in Cape Canaveral, Florida. After 20 years, 25 missions and more than 115 million miles in space, Endeavour is on its final flight to the International Space Station before being retired as

Raiders knew Osama mission a one-shot deal

WASHINGTON—Those who planned the secret mission to get Osama bin Laden in Pakistan knew it was a one-shot deal, and it nearly went terribly wrong.

The US deliberately hid the operation from Pakistan, and predicted that tactical outrage over the breach of Pakistani sovereignty would make it impossible to try again if the raid on Bin Laden's suspected redoubt came up dry.

Once the raiders reached their target, Obama ordered to go every aircraft immediately, officials briefed on the operation said.

Adding exclusive new details to the account of the assault on Bin Laden's hideout, officials described just how the SEAL strikers hastily ditched a foundering helicopter right outside Bin Laden's door, ruining the plan for a surprise assault. That forced them to abandon plans to run a separate play on Bin Laden—simultaneously entering the house stealthily from the roof and the ground floor.

Instead, they busted into the ground floor and began a floor-by-floor storming of the house, working up to the top level where they had assumed Bin Laden—if he was in the house—would be.

They were right.

The raiders came face-to-face with Bin Laden in a hallway outside his bedroom, and three of the Americans stormed in after him. US officials briefed on the operation said. The unarmored 54-year-old Al Qaeda leader spoke on condition of anonymity to describe a classified operation.

US officials believe Pakistani intelligence continues to support militants who attack US troops in Afghanistan, and actively undermine US intelligence operations to get after al-Qaeda inside Pakistan. The level of distrust is such that keeping Pakistan in the dark was a major factor in planning the raid, and led to using the high-tech but sometimes unpredictable helicopter technology that nearly sabotaged the mission.

Pakistan's government has since scrambled for damage control, and threatened to open fire if US forces enter again.

On Monday, the two partners attempted to patch up relations, agreeing to pursue high-value targets jointly.

The decision to launch on that particular moonless night in May came largely because two years' detailed intelligence had been briefed on the plan. US officials feared if it waited to the prior, Bin Laden would disappear for another decade.

US special operations forces have made approximately four forays into Pakistani territory since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, though this one, some 145 km inside Pakistan, was unlike any other, the officials say.

The job was given to a SEAL Team 6 unit, just back from Afghanistan, one official said. This elite branch of SEALs had been hunting Bin Laden in eastern Afghanistan since 2001.

Two aircraft flew from Jalalabad, Afghanistan, with those selected for the Chinook helicopters landing in a deserted area roughly two-thirds of the way to Bin Laden's compound in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad, two of the officials explained.

Aboard two Black Hawk helicopters were 23 SEALs, an interpreter and a tracking dog named Cairo. Nineteen SEALs would enter the compound, and three of them would find Bin Laden, one official said, providing the exact numbers for the first time.

Aboard the Chinooks were two dozen more SEALs, as backup.

When President Barack Obama met the SEAL team, he did not tell who shot Bin Laden. He simply thanked each member of the team, two officials said. AP

Bomb found on Ireland bus

DUBLIN—The Irish army blew up a makeshift bomb found in a bus outside Dublin ahead of a historic visit by Britain's Queen Elizabeth set Tuesday, amid the biggest security operation ever mounted by the state.

The Queen's visit, the first by a British monarch since Ireland won independence from London in 1921, is designed to show how warm neighborly relations have replaced centuries of animosity.

But the discovery of the bomb on a bus in a town outside Dublin, and a rocket-armed set Monday about a possible bomb in London, were stark reminders that a small minority remain violently opposed to continued British rule in Northern Ireland.

Britain's Foreign Office said the Queen's visit would still go ahead despite the bomb's discovery.

It was found in the town of Maynooth, 25 km from Dublin and blown up by an army bomb disposal unit in a controlled explosion, the military said. The remains of the device were handed over to police for investigation.

Police later said the army's bomb squad was investigating a second suspicious device found at a Dublin train station.

Peace in Northern Ireland after decades of conflict has paved the way for the Queen's four-day stay, but there will be constant reminders of a violent past during her visit.

The queen's earliest activities will be the 15th anniversary of bombings in Dublin and Monaghan, the single bloodiest day in a three-decade sectarian battle over Northern Ireland, and a day still mired in controversy.

Relatives will lay a wreath at the site of one of the bombings in Dublin shortly before Queen Elizabeth and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, land.

The monarch's visit is about reconciliation and emphasizing the strong bond, built on generations of Irish emigration, that existed between the two countries even before a 1998 deal brought peace in Northern Ireland. Reuters

The WORLD

Lilia Lorente B. Suico

(L to R) Gloria Liu-Ong - Vice President Finance, QC Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, Brgy. Captain Corazon dela Cruz, Councilor Roderick Paulate, Alice Liu - Vice President Merchandising, and Sunnie Liu - President and CEO GOLDEN ABC

Golden ABC Officially Breaks New Ground on their 25th Year

GOLDEN ABC, the Complex, behind iconic fashion brands Parahoops, Guygas, Parkle, Mauro, Regatta and Pilot Logo, have recently broken ground in Quezon City, where the new Manila office will be located. The proposed twelve-storey building along EDSA that intends will house GOLDEN ABC's ever-growing brands and personnel.

The groundbreaking is one of the key highlights of GOLDEN ABC's 25th anniversary which started as a backyard t-shirt businesses Cuba in the 80's to a new and fresher fashion retailer with product lines that include accessories, footwear, fragrances and clothing.

GOLDEN ABC CEO, Mr. Sherrie Liu, said, "two decades ago, we started with only a handful of employees, 40's tee would. What brought that a tangible retail business in Cebu to a once a household brand."

Mr. Sutherland, "we believe that Quezon City, with its new commuter rail enterprise home, in the event strategic location for the business presently because of the growth the city demonstrated in the past years and the

provides that the city Continues to show."

The ground-breaking was graced by Quezon City's vice mayor, Joy Belmonte, Councilor Precious Hipolito and Roderick Paulate are also key officials. Head of the City Treasurer's office Mr. Edgar Villanueva, QC District Hon. Marshall Junior Suan, Bobby Ramado, Brgy. Captain Cristino dela Cruz, and representatives sent by SCPDN based Good Guys Materials. For last part, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte said that the GOLDEN ABC building is only much limited because in in the city. Belmonte believes, "Not only will this provide the needed employment opportunities within the city, but the development in very much welcomed because of the growth roadmap in a strategic thoroughfare area," which the local government is developing as one of the progressive areas of Quezon City.

The groundbreaking was capped with an unveiling of the proposed new building's perspective and a time capsule-laying ceremony. The time capsule includes memories from the old building, the new building perspective, blueprints, and tokens from each brand.

ICC prosecutor wants Gadhafi, son arrested

TRIPOLI—Pressure mounted on Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi on Tuesday as the International Criminal Court prosecutor sought his arrest. Nato jets pounded his capital and his truce offer was snubbed.

Compounding the strongman's woes, a security services building and the headquarters of Libya's anticorruption agency were on fire in Tripoli early Tuesday after separate bombing hit by Nato warplanes.

In The Hague, ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo applied on Monday for warrants for the arrest of Gadhafi, his son Seif al-Islam and intelligence head Abdallah Senussi for crimes against humanity.

The dogmatic prosecutor said there was evidence "that Moammar Gadhafi personally ordered attacks on innocent Libyan civilians."

A panel of ICC judges will now decide whether to accept or reject the prosecutor's application.

Moreno-Ocampo said thousands of people had been killed and around 750,000 people forced to flee since Gadhafi ordered his forces to crush protests against his four-decade autocratic rule that began on Sept. 11.

Turkish Foreign Secretary William Hague called on the international community to "fully support" the ICC.

"I welcome this announcement. The human rights situation in western Libya and the behavior of the Gadhafi regime remains of grave concern," Hague said.

The rebels' aim behind the move by the ICC but said that Gadhafi ought to be tried in Libya first.

"The National Transitional Council welcomes the decision of chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, to request an arrest warrant," the rebel administration's vice president, Abdel Hafez Ghoga, said.

"We would like him to be tried in Libya first before being put on trial in an international court," he added.

The Libyan regime however slammed the ICC prosecutor was acting on "unreliable" information.

"Unfortunately, the ICC was from the start of the Libyan crisis dependent on media reports to evaluate the situation in Libya. As a result, the ICC has notably enabled misinformation coordinators," government spokesperson Mussa Ibrahim said in a statement. AFP

SHOE CRAZE
The "Madrid" dance crew performs at the Mozart Rodeo nightclub during a dance competition in Manchuela, Mexico. The dance crew runs the line to embrace the flashy pointy-boot craze that has swept through the Mexican town of Manchuela to nearby cities and across the United States.

Japanese officials ignored, hid risks of nuclear plants

ONAGAWA—The nuclear power plant, lawyers argued, could not withstand the kind of mega-earthquake that now seismic research now suggested was likely.

If such a quake struck, electrical power could fail, along with backup generators, crippling the cooling system, the lawyers predicted. The reactors would then suffer a meltdown and start spewing radiation into the air and sea. Tens of thousands in the area would be forced to flee.

Although the prediction sound eerily like the sequence of events at the Fukushima Daiichi plant following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, the lawsuit was filed nearly a decade ago to shut down another plant, long considered the most dangerous in Japan—the Onnawa station.

It was one of several quixotic legal battles waged—and lost—in a long attempt to improve nuclear safety and force Japan's power companies, nuclear regulators and courts to confront the dangers posed by earthquakes and tsunamis on some of the world's most seismically active ground.

The lawsuits reveal a disturbing pattern in which operators underestimated or hid seismic dangers to avoid costly upgrades and keep operating. And the last clear vestiges of those suits were unsuccessful reforms for underground belief in Japan that a culture of collusion supporting nuclear power, including the government, nuclear regulators and plant operators, extends to the courts as well.

Yoichi Kaido, who represented the plaintiffs in the Onnawa case, which they lost to a district court in 2005, said that victory could have led to stricter earthquake, tsunami and backup generator standards on plants nationwide. New York Times-Asahi Service

Mass grave found in Syria

AMMAN—Set on villages pulled 13 bodies from a mass grave near the southern city of Deraa on Monday, residents said, and tanks pushed into a rural border area in the latest crackdown on protests against President Bashar al-Assad.

Deraa residents say hundreds of people have been missing since tanks and soldiers moved in last month to crush the cradle of opposition to Assad's 11-year rule.

They said villagers digging in farmland in the outskirts of the city uncovered the decomposed bodies of Abdullah Abdul Aziz Abu Zaid, 62, and four of his children, along with the bodies of an unidentified woman and her child.

Three residents said the six other bodies found there were those of unidentified men.

It was not clear when they died, but Deraa residents say dozens of civilians were killed during the military assault on the city's old quarter.

Syrian and international rights groups say Syrian forces have killed at least 700 civilians across the country since the first protests broke out in Deraa on March 18.

The report on the mass grave could not be confirmed independently.

Authorities have blamed most of the violence on armed groups backed by Islamists and outside powers, who they say have killed more than 120 members of the security forces.

Witnesses in Deraa said tanks were still stationed at main city junctions and in the outskirts, but authorities had shortened the curfew by three hours, allowing people until the streets until 5:00 p.m. Reuters

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19
MAY 2011

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Biz Buzz: PSE election kinks /B4
■ Europe seeks to ease China's euro zone fears /B8

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Cornie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Train line to connect Naia 3, Fort, Makati

Monorail project may be done through PPP program

By Paolo G. Montecillo

A NEW commuter train line may soon connect the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) terminal 3 to the Fort Bonifacio and Makati central business districts, according to the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

BCDA Chair Felicito Payumo said the government has recently approached by a foreign group that was studying the construction of a new monorail system.

Speaking before members of the American Chamber of Commerce (Amcham), Payumo said the project would be implemented through the public-private partnership concept being espoused by the Aquino administration.

If it pushes through, the new train line would be called the Makati-Taguig-Pasay Monorail Alignment, which is meant to address the growing demand for efficient mass transport systems over

TRAIN B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
May 17, 2011
43.285

STOCK MARKET
May 17, 2011
▼ 39.21

Stocks end lower

LOCAL STOCKS pulled back yesterday as the volatile overseas equity markets induced profit-taking.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index lost 39.21 points or 0.59 percent to finish at 6,551.60.

The industrial, holding firms and commercial counters were the most battered, declining 1 percent, 1.84 percent and 0.36 percent.

The index was weighed down most by SMC, PLDT, ESC and Lopez.

SMC, the most actively traded stock, fell 11.7 percent to P49.50. Since April, there were talks that the company would be included in the MSCI index starting May but yesterday, investors dumped its shares on disappointment over the non-inclusion.

On the other hand, JGTS, ACE, Vista Land, LRC, SMPHINC, Bonoc de Oro and Alliancebank bucked the day's downturn.

Value turnover amounted to P4.27 billion. There were only 53 advancers as against 89 decliners while 37 stocks were unchanged. MetroStrategy Joaquin Gabaldon said despite strong foreign investors, there was net foreign selling worth P170 million.

Overnight, the Dow Jones industrial index was down 61.28 points or 0.38 percent to 12,048.37 on lingering concerns over Europe's fiscal woes.

Joshua Crayonga Jr., a dealer at Accord Capital Equities Corp., said that based on technical readings, the slide might continue this week the next couple of sessions. He noted that poor earnings numbers from Jollibee and SMC might have raised concerns over incoming data from

SEVEN B3

Bank deposits in BSP facility near ₱1.5T mark

By Michelle V. Ruiz

MONEY PARKED by banks in the special deposit account (SDA) facility of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas surged closer to the P1.5 trillion mark as of mid-March.

Monetary officials said the growing amount of money placed in its facility was an indication of the growing resources of the economy that were being siphoned to the country's banking system.

Documents from the BSP showed that placements by banks in the SDA facility which is aimed at siphoning off excess liquidity in the economy through deposit products with varying maturities, amounted to P1.491 trillion as of mid-March, registering an 8% percent growth from P1.362 trillion a year ago.

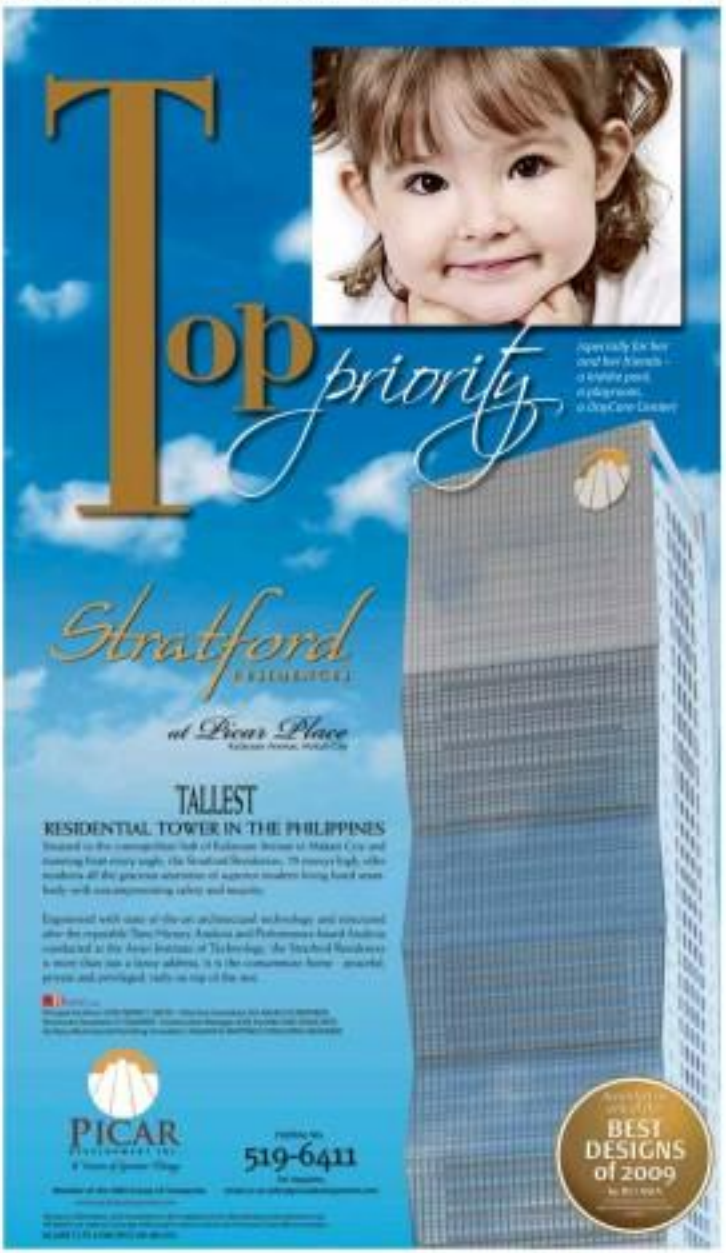
The amount was on top of the P221.3 billion deposited by banks in the BSP's overnight deposit facility, which was 45 percent higher than the P152.7 billion in March last year.

The BSP earlier this month raised the interest rates it pays to deposits in its SDA and overnight borrowing facility to 4.5 percent from 4.25 percent.

Interest rates charged by the BSP influence commercial interest rates. The rate increase was intended to encourage savings and ease growth in demand for loans to temper inflation, which was feared to exceed the government's target ceiling of 5 percent if interest rates remained low.

Some economists, however, said the amount

AMOUNT B4



AGI net income surges 179%

Property, consumer units boost Q1 growth

By Doris C. Dumlao

TYCOON KNOWN Yan-kid Alliance Global Group Inc. picked up its first quarter net profit by 179 percent to P6.19 billion on strong real estate and consumer businesses as well as one-time gains booked from its takeover of the former Filinvest Land Inc.

Net profit attributable to owners of the parent company hit P5.6 billion, a 206-percent growth year-on-year, AGI reported yesterday. Excluding nonrecurring gains, core net income was up 28 percent year-on-year to P5.05 billion.

"Alliance Global is on a strong growth trajectory," said company chief finance officer Dina Inting.

The headline net profit of P6.19 billion included a nonrecurring gain of P1.16 billion from the acquisition of a majority stake in Fil2 Inter, which was renamed Global Estate Resorts (Ger). This represented the excess of proportionate share in the consolidated net assets of Ger over the acquisition cost paid by AGI for the capital stock which was at par value.

AGI's total revenues increased 62 percent to P77.7 billion from a year ago, primarily due to a 59-percent growth in consumer products sales, 33-percent rise in real estate sales and 186-percent jump in realized gross profit on pole power real estate sales.

And, recon subsidiary Megaworld Corp. was a key driver of growth, contributing 20 percent to AGI's first quarter consolidated revenues.

For the first quarter, Megaworld and Emperador Distillers recorded net profits of P1.24 billion and P458 million, respectively. The combined mall portfolio of MDC's other business units, including Travellers Group, reached P643 billion, which the company attributed to higher operating efficiency.

"With its diversification, AGI is in a unique position to seize opportunities in the marketplace and continue its strong growth momentum," said Inting.

Vista Land net profit up 26%

VISTA Land & Lifescapes grew its first-quarter net profit by 26 percent to P875 million from a year ago on robust residential business.

Real estate investments of the Villar-led property firm went up 22 percent to P3.29 billion from a year ago. Gross profit margin improved to 49.8 percent from 46.5 percent a year ago and was expected to firm up to 48 percent for the rest of the year. Vista Land senior vice president Ricardo Tan Jr. said in a briefing yesterday.

"We are off to a strong start this year and we are on track to achieve our full year target for 2011," Tan said. The first-quarter booking was in line with developers' estimates.

For the full year, Vista Land is expecting a net profit of P5.4 billion on revenues of about P13 billion in real estate revenues. Reservation sales are seen hitting P24 billion, from about P20.6 billion last year.

Capital expenditures for this year are pegged to reach P11.1 billion. Moving forward, Vista Land chief finance officer Manuel Paolo Villar said the challenges this year would be stiffer competition along side potential supply shocks from oil, steel and other commodities that could affect demand. "That's something to look at but right now, it's still not an issue," Villar said.

"We are confident about the prospects for our company," Tan said. "Fortunately, we have so far not seen any negative effects from recent events in the Middle East and Japan. Sales to overseas Filipino workers (which account for about 60 percent of the total) have remained robust. This is due in large part to the strength of our Camella and Lessandra brands, which dominate the housing market in their respective segments." Doris C. Dumlao

ERRATUM

SM Prime Holdings

would like to inform the public that our advertisement for SMPH Philcat Sale "Great Condo Deals" published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on May 17, 2011 contained some errors, as follows:

Mimosa Adjacent one bed	SRP P3.3M	sale price P2.9M 12% off
SMPH Bel-Air Loft	SRP P2.2M	sale price P1.9M 13% off

which should have read as:

Mimosa Adjacent one bed	SRP P3.3M	sale price P2.9M 12% off
SMPH Bel-Air Loft	SRP P2.2M	sale price P1.9M 13% off

We regret the inconvenience this may have caused our consumers.

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Train line to connect Naia 3, Fort, Makati

Front page B1

the next few years.

Private-led the proposed transport system would link up with the Metrorail Transit (Taft to North Avenue), the Light Rail Transit line 1 (Baclaran to Roosevelt) and the Philippine National Railways (PNR) system, which eats across Metro Manila toward the Southern Luzon region.

"The interconnection is estimated to form a loop around the projected service areas covered by the three rail transit systems," a BCDA statement issued yesterday quoted Reyneta as saying.

The BCDA said it would like to spearhead the project's implementation since most of the areas it would cover—the Villamor Air Base in front of Nichols and the Fort Bonifacio area—were BCDA developments.

Reyneta said designers for the proposed project focused on elevated terminals because of the narrow streets of Makati and Taguig City.

But the BCDA said the project was still being studied and more details would be announced once a more definite deal with the project's proponents has been signed. The BCDA likewise declined to name the foreign company that proposed to build the new train line.

Bank deposits in BSP facility

Front page B1

of money parked with the BSP was not all overnight deposits and that a portion of it must be used for lending especially to businesses.

They said the economy would have better chances of sustaining a robust growth rate if banks would lend more and help finance investment initiatives.

The economy grew 7.6 percent last year, the fastest pace in more than three decades. There was a consensus among private-sector economists that the economy would still be able to post a decent growth rate this year, but not as fast as last year's. Estimates pinned it a growth rate of 6 to 6.8 percent this year.

However, BSP officials said bank banks have been increasing their loan lending activities, as shown by the 18 percent growth in bank loans last year.

Latest data from the BSP showed that outstanding banks of banks in the country amounted to P2.27 trillion as of end March, up 14.1 percent from P2.09 trillion a year ago.

Stocks

From page B1

ealer David Ryan.

On a positive note, however, the dips shown were not as wide as it was in the previous day's trading.

"The index will test the 4,200 support and climax from positive leads, particularly from Europe and the US, specifically on the Greece debt and debt limits, respectively, we may be looking at a further slide toward the major support line of 4,170, David said.

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1,000,000–1,999,999	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	7.00%
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BUSINESS

Gov't to ask flight schools to move out of Naia

Firms given 6 months to submit detailed plans

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT has given flight schools six months to submit detailed plans to move out of Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) to reduce delays caused by congestion in the country's premiere gateway.

In a statement, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) yesterday said this was part of moves being implemented to maximize the use of Manila's airport facilities.

"The changes, designed to address congestion problems at the Naia resulting from increased outgoing and incoming flights, include the relocation of... training schools departing small and slow trainer aircraft that technically affect the movement efficiency of other aircraft using the runways," Transportation Secretary Jose Jr. Jesus said.

"The aviation operators affected by the relocation program have six months to submit their respective transfer plans drawn on the basis of their own needs and requirements," he said.

Transportation Undersecretary Eliseo Rino said in an interview that the number of takeoffs and landings at Naia averaged 43 to 45 an hour. This was above the safe level of 36 landings an hour prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Rino said other busy airports around the world have as much as 70 flights an hour. "Our airport is still safe, but this congestion has already caused lots of delays," Rino said.

The DOTC said industry players were also being encouraged to consider using secondary terminals such as the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) at the Clark Freeport. The facility, Dr. Jesus said, has more than enough space to handle additional traffic from Naia.

"For the long term, the airline industry has been advised that once the Naia capacity to take on flights is approaching the upper limits and may increase operational safety concerns, airlines should look at the option of using other established international gateways to Luzon like the DMIA," Dr. Jesus said.

PSE election kinks

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange elections are rarely but controversies continue to rage over certain candidates given the limited seats that brokers can occupy in the 11-member board of the demutualized bourse.

Ahead of last Saturday's polls, certain challengers lodged at the Securities and Exchange Commission a complaint involving the eligibility of two candidates, which complainants said might have been "over-looked" by the PSE's nominations and election committee.

The first involved the case of Candidate A, whose nomination to fill the open seat as a non-broker director had "was not allowed by the Nomcho to run as such, presumably because he had not yet complied with the two-year "cooling off" period from the time he left a brokerage house."

But the complainants were surprised that the same candidate was allowed to run for the broker category. They said Candidate A neither qualified as a broker or a non-broker and should not have been allowed to run as all. Anyway, Candidate A did not win the elections.

Now comes the case of Candidate B, who was accused of having violated a rule prohibiting any broker-dealer from buying additional PSE shares for his own account or for another broker-dealer until such time that the industry was compliant with the 25-percent single-industry limit. But the SEC seemed broken to follow. Candidate B had allegedly bought additional shares purportedly to get additional votes during the elections.

Candidate B won but some say he might be at risk of losing the seat if and when the SEC finds merit in the complaint.

Boris C. Dumlao

Wansan on top

HOLE the big news during the PSE elections—at least on the surface—was the choice of "outside candidates" Ellen "Ellen" Pichay as co-chair of the bourse and the removal of Hans Sicat's contract as president, there was also a less visible result that firmly stamped the authority of Vivian Yuchengco on the closely knit stockbrokers' community.

According to the PSE, Yuchengco—love her or hate her—actively rapped the elections for the board of directors with no less than 67.16 million shares voted in her favor by her broker-stakeholders.

This was significant because there was an actual effort just a few months ago to clip the powers of the PSE's "dragon lady" by having the so-called "government bloc" lead a board coup. Fortunately they did not have the numbers then, and they certainly still did not have the numbers now. Thanks to a large degree to a last-minute opposition against the implementation of a contested SEC cap on brokers' voting rights.

Other poll top nominees included Faustino Sanco with 72.22 million shares voted in his favor and Eddie Gobing, who received votes from 62.77 million shares cast in his favor. All top slates candidates are re-elected directors.

Other members of this year's PSE board are Francis Chua, Alejandro Yu, Emmanuel Rustia, Carmelo Peralta, Cedric Francisco, Analiza Chan, Aniceto Bautista, Rolbert Tengco, Edgardo Lanzon, Jana Siytat and David Chua.

Cecilio L. Lucas

BIZ BUZZ

By the staff

Cut, and cut clearly

IT USED to be that Globe Telecom's mobile phone service would be interrupted whenever schools would hoist—or have drawn their cell sites in the provinces or up to the mountains. But with the telecommunications landscape changing rapidly, efforts against the Ayala-controlled firm (by whatever is doing it) seem to be changing with the times.

Two weeks ago, Globe suffered a massive disruption of its data services in the Visayas and Mindanao areas due to several cable cuts that occurred almost during the same period—four cable cuts, to be precise.

One cable was found severed in a river, and engineers were hard pressed to explain why the submerged line was exposed all of a sudden. A second one happened under the sea, while a third happened on a separate cable system.

But it was the fourth cable cut that looked very suspicious. Its the traditional copper wire (which are stolen for them resale value as scrap metal); there is no secondary market for used or stolen fiber optic cables so those have no other commercial uses.

In the case of Globe, engineers found that one critical cable located under a bridge was cut cleanly...with a hacksaw...with no length of cable stolen. Very strange. *Dexter C. Lucas*

Back in the saddle

AS IF to signal that commercial banking will be a strategic component of its survey of businesses, diversified San Miguel Corp. is giving up its treasury chief Ferdie Edeza to become the new president and CEO of the conglomerate's banking arm, Bank of Commerce, effective June 1.3.

Edeza, who many years ago was quoted as saying he would somehow retire to be the president of a commercial bank, is taking over the post that was only briefly held by Billy Gerongco, who in turn cited "family reasons" for leaving the bank (he will migrate to Canada to join his family there).

Prior to handling San Miguel's coffers, Edeza was a senior executive at the treasury departments of BCBC and Silverbank. Long before that, he was institutional treasurer and a treasurer of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

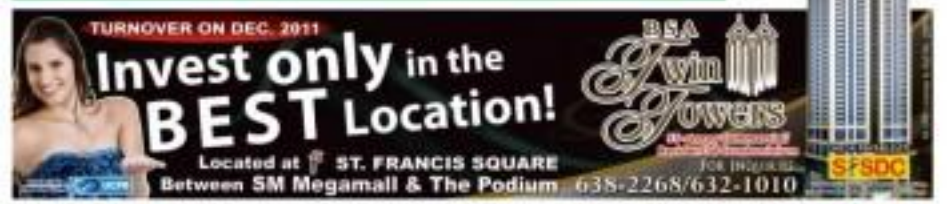
Also leading their frequent to the bank's board will be industry veterans Reynaldo Ferrol and Vicente "Vicor" Paulino. *Boris C. Dumlao*

More on MVP

MVP has been in a good mood these past weeks after his Philippine Basketball Association team, Talk N' Text Tropang Texters, claimed their second straight championship in the league's Commissioner's Cup against Barangay Ginebra Kings, owned by rival San Miguel Corp.

And what exactly will the cagers get for their efforts? Last year, each team member was given a reward now "Senate Wins. This time, instead of cars that depreciate, MVP said he was considering giving each player something that can appreciate—shares of stock in PLDT. *Paolo Montecillo*

BUSINESS



SMC telco bent on securing mobile frequency

By Paolo G. Montecillo

Conglomerate raring to tackle big boys of telecommunications sector

CONGLOMERATE San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is bent on grabbing market share and revenue away from bigger players in the crowded but lucrative telecommunications arena as it draws up plans to offer the public as many voice and text services.

SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said the company's telecommunications unit Liberty Telecom Holdings Inc. would bid for phone frequencies, allowing the company to offer a wider range of services.

Liberty Telecom, which operates under the brand we Fibr, is currently trying to grow its broadband business by bundling wireless interoperability microwave access (WiMAX) technology

"We are waiting for the NTC (National Telecommunications Commission) to bid out the last 2G frequency," Ang said at a recent briefing.

The remaining 2G, or third generation frequency, can be used for calls and text messaging, as well as broadband services for mobile phones and other devices.

There are a total of five 3G frequencies that can be used in the country. Four are currently used by Smart Communications, Globe Telecom Inc. (GTI), Globe Telecom and Sun Cellular.

The last frequency still has not been assigned to any network.

Smaller telcos have since filed court cases to secure the last frequency from the NTC. The commission is awaiting a resolution of all cases before it bids out the remaining frequency.

"We are continuing with our network rollout but we are still waiting for the bidding for the last 3G frequency," Ang said. "We plan to compete in all areas of the industry."

Liberty Telecom is a joint venture between SMC and the QTel group of Qatar.

Earlier, Ang said the we Fibre brand would come out as an attractive alternative for mobile phone subscribers in an industry that would soon be dominated by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

PLDT is set to take over operations of Sun Cellular through a PhP4.3-billion share swap deal. The transaction with Digital Telecommunications Philippines, operator of Sun Cellular, will be completed by the end of next month.

The deal, which will result in PLDT controlling 70 percent of industry revenue, has raised concerns that it will kill industry competition, leading to higher rates and slower innovation.

The Ayala group's Globe, the second largest industry player, has also urged the government to stop PLDT of some of its frequencies once the Digitel deal is completed as a way to preserve competition.

Emerging markets soon to outstrip rich ones, says WB

By Michelle V. Ramos

EMERGING ECONOMIES like the Philippines will play an increasingly important role in the global economy over the next six to nine years, continually exceeding growth rates of industrialized nations and accounting for bigger shares of the world's output.

This was according to the latest report by the World Bank, which projected that by 2025, the world economy's total production would be divided almost equally between currently rich countries and the emerging markets.

In a report titled "Multipolarity: The New Global Economy," the World Bank said emerging economies could grow by an average of 6.7 percent this year until 2025. Industrialized nations are only projected to expand by an average of 2.3 percent.

Consequently, the former will eventually catch up with the latter in terms of contributions to global output.

"One of the most visible outcomes of the transformation is the rise of a number of dynamic emerging market countries to the helm of the global economy," the World Bank said.

ENTERPRISE 8A

Corporate governance efforts gaining ground

By Paolo G. Montecillo

FOLLOWING the global financial meltdown in 2008, transparency and accountability have become buzzwords around the world as corporate executives and boards come to no longer be trusted guilty of having misused investor and customer funds.

The promotion of good corporate governance has thus been gaining speed with policymakers around the world. And the Philippines, while it has survived the crisis relatively unscathed, is not exempt.

Central to the efforts to push good corporate governance in the Philippines is the creation of the so-called Mahardika Board, the local version of Brazil's "Novo Mercado" or trading board for listed companies that exhibit excellent corporate governance practices.

"The aim is to make the Philippines a more attractive market, not just for local investors but also for foreign ones," PSE's corporate governance head Angel Antonillo recently said.

He said this was part of the country's efforts to clean up its image among foreign investors that are now looking to bet on economies outside of the traditional safe havens like the United States.

Philippine financial markets have suffered because of the country's bad image as an unsafe investment destination due to controversies such as the 1999 case of stock manipulation and insider trading involving former PLDT treasurers.

In a report last year, CLSA Philippines and the Asian Corporate Governance Association ranked the Philippines as the bottom of a list of 11 countries in Southeast Asia in terms of good governance practices.

As a result, the country's equity market, despite being the oldest, is the smallest in the region in terms of market capitalization.

"We want to rebrand our country to show the world that we are serious about focusing on good corporate governance," Antonillo said. The new board should be ready by September of this year, he said.

He said smaller have shown that companies with good reputations due to high standards of good corporate governance are usually 20 to 25 percent more valuable than other firms of comparable size.

Among the requirements for companies that want to join the Mahardika board are raising the number of directors held by independents as well as giving them total investors a stronger voice by increasing the number of independent directors.

For this to succeed, however, the Good Governance Advocates and Practitioners of the Philippines (GGAPP) said the Philippine Stock Exchange should first work on ensuring a set of governance standards that would bring can use as a benchmark.

"We need a set of streamlined standards that can be followed by local companies," said Vincent Perrin, GGAPP's president and compliance officer at Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

GGAPP was formally established on April 1 and is the first organization of compliance officers in the country.

Perrin said the set of good governance standards needs to be benchmarked against best practices in the region and should balance the interests of consumers, investors, regulators and the companies themselves.

Perrin also expressed doubts on whether a Mahardika Board would work, reportedly because Brazil is so far the only country that has achieved success with such a program.

"It worked in Brazil but nowhere else in the world. We want to see how similar we are or different we are from Brazil before we are something up," he said, adding that SGAPP would play an active role in the plan, using the Mahardika Board.

Sir Keith Darvy executive director of the international group Ethics and Compliance Officer Association, said policies should not just focus on preventing compliance to a set of minimum standards.

"Companies should look just marking off items on a list, so to speak, to meet minimum compliance standards. Instead, company officials need to promote a culture of ethics in a company that everyone in the organization can live by.

"You must be in substantial compliance with law, as future was, and yet

CONTINUED B7

Power Situation Outlook
for Wednesday, 18 May 2011

Luzon Grid (MW)	8,477	4,882	1,285
Visayas Grid (MW)	1,259	1,374	1,191
Mindanao Grid (MW)	1,255	252	176

Coping with the rising cost of education

MONEY MATTERS

Randell Tiongson, RFP

Barometer

In the absence of actual data, let me share my personal experience with regard to the rising cost of education. From the time my kids entered pre-school to today, a span of 16 years, my experienced increases has ranged between 8 to 12 percent and we have some financial woes to prove it.

Education school expenses, primarily tuition fees, actually escalate faster than inflation if we use the consumer price index (CPI) as a barometer.

In a recent ES report (www.inflationdata.com), it showed that while the CPI was pegged at 106.16 percent in June 1998 to 2008, college tuition and fees registered a whopping 412.62 percent for the same period.

In perspective, the prices of goods and services doubled in a period of 22 years while the price of college education quadrupled.

While the data is based on the US, I am pretty sure our experience is not dissimilar if not even worse, than that of the United States. Using an escalation rate of 8 percent per year, I calculated that the annual tuition fees for a school like the Ateneo de Manila and De La Salle University will be about P300,000 to 10 years.

Okay, enough depressing numbers and let me start answering the question.

There are five options we can take with regard to our children's future education:

- Full preparation—trying to project future cost and prepare for the whole amount or close to the full amount.
- No preparation—worry about their education in the future and hope that our financial standing by then will be much better than today; or,
- Partially prepare and worry the balance by then.

Full preparation is the ideal solution as it relieves the worry of providing for future costs.

By the time our children hit college, we can sit comfortably on our couches and just provide for the non-financial needs of our children.

Doing so, you must be able to regularly set aside a huge amount of money over a period of time, say 18 years.

Foolish

You must also get a return on your investment that will be at least equal, if not higher, than education escalation rates.

However, if you are a conservative investor, you will find it difficult to match investment instruments that will match the inflation of tuition fees and this will require you to consider riskier instruments like the stock market, among others.

This can take the opinion that trust Donors do with regard to providing for the education of our kids...the "bahala na" method. After all, we can automatically set aside a portion of our income for college, and income will be much better and that we can provide for the education of our kids on top of whatever expenses we have.

This method is the easiest but probably the most foolish as we live in very risky times.

The final option will seem to be the most practical and a compromise that many can adopt. While we would want to fully cover our kid's college education today, we need to have our priorities and that there are many other expenses that is competing in our budgets like living expenses, insurances, present day tuition and the like.

We can't invest all our money for college education in the present day as we have to strike some balances. Invest some of your money for your children's education today by setting up a fund and regularly adding onto the fund and investing it prudently.

Do not forget to diversify your investments to manage the risks and whenever possible, try to add more to the said fund whenever you experience increases in your income. While this method may not cover all the tuition fees in the future, your preparations will be a great help to you and the family today and tomorrow.

Quality education

Just a personal opinion: To think that sending our kids to the best educational institutions will guarantee a bright future for them is wishful thinking. Quality education starts from us parents and there are many things we can teach our children that will give them a better shot at the future, in addition to sending them to a good university. "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."...Proverbs 22:6, NIV

Randell Tiongson is an advocate of Life & Personal Finance. He is a director of the Registered Financial Planner Institute. For questions, write to randell@rfpinstitute.com. To learn more about RFP programs, visit www.rfp.ph or email info@rfp.ph.

PNOC EC defers follow-on offering

PNOC EXPLORATION Corp. has deferred its follow-on offering, shortly after it announced that it had already narrowed down to three its list of financial advisers.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PNOC EC's only said that its board had authorized to defer the scheduled follow-on offer (FOO) of additional public offering until its stakeholders—parent firm Philippine National Oil Co., Department of Energy and Department of Finance—have completed their review of the project.

PNOC EC, the upstream oil and coal arm of PNOC, did not offer any other details.

From the start, however, neither firm PNOC had already wanted to defer the planned follow-on offering if it was found to be in compliance to the listing rules of PSE.

Under the rules, listed firms should have a public float of at least 10 percent of its shares of stock.

PNOC EC had been the only entity pushing for the week of hiring.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said then that the government wanted to get the correct value for PNOC EC shares.

To offer those shares prematurely—or at a time when the market weren't ready to offer competitive rates for the shares...would not be fair to the public.

"The board wants to ready it, particularly the timing of the offering, given the instability in the global markets. We expect a lot of foreign companies to be interested in that. The opinions were: Do you want to get a value to be listed, or do you defer?" Almendras had said.

Currently, PNOC EC is 99.7% percent owned by the government through PNOC, with the rest held on the Philippine Stock Exchange. The planned follow-on offering was supposed to increase public ownership in it to 10 percent.

Recently, Almendras stressed the need to wait for the project time to conduct the offering.

On Tuesday night, at the sidelines of the Shell Eco-Marathon launch, Almendras noted that the government was even willing to pay the penalty of about P3 million for noncompliance, rather than to sell undervalued shares. He said the government was accountable to the Filipino people.

Some industry observers earlier claimed that PNOC EC cancelled the pre-bid conference scheduled last week because it did not secure the approval of power firm PNOC Alroy R. Ramos

Go slow on renewable energy, DOE says

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY SECRETARY Jose Rene D. Almendras has expressed reservation over local energy developers who are urging the government to increase the limit on the renewable energy capacity that would be installed under the feed-in-tariff system.

"Why are you so hot? Why are you having the issue in making the investments now? If you are confident about your technology and the technological advancements, then you have no timeline to worry about," Almendras said on the sidelines of the Shell Eco-Marathon launch Monday night.

"Now if you're timing a technology that is anticipated, that will soon be overrun by developments in the technology, then you have a lot to worry about," he added.

Almendras added that the initial cap limit of 500 megawatts, which represented the total capacity of renewable energy facilities that will be allowed to be constructed within three years, took into account technical constraints.

The cap limit was incorporated the lessons learned from the first world countries that have implemented such mechanisms, he added.

"I am doing my job as the secretary of energy. I am being accused of being anti-renewable energy. On the contrary, I am doing this because I don't want the Filipino people to hate renewable energy because of the cost impact. It will have an effect on them," Almendras explained.

The energy chief disclosed that a 1-centavo per kilowatt hour (kWh) additional charge to the power bill was equivalent to an additional P667 million that the power consumers would have to shoulder in a year.

Having a FIT all-in-rate—or the universal fees to be charged to all power consumers for the use of RE sources—of 12.37 centavos per kWh would mean that the public would have to fork over P8 billion in additional charges annually.

Almendras also pointed out that even if developers would insist, a technical study would show that it would not be feasible to increase the installation target at this would "crash the national power system."

The limit on installation target was also meant to prevent exorbitantly prices from rising too high due to possible increase in the use of ancillary services that would support renewable energy facilities since these resources are intermittent in nature.

Ancillary services are support services that are necessary to support the transmission of electric power in accordance with good utility practice and to maintain reliable operation of the transmission system.

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Almendras keen on limiting capacity to 830 MW

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SEALED WITH A SHAKE AMBASSADOR Guy Ledoux (second from right) of the European Union shakes the hands of Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo, sealing an agreement that the two once hope will lead to expanded trade between Europe and the Philippines. With them at the Board of Investments are Andrea Ferreira of the EU's Economic Trade section, and Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr.

DPWH savings will mean better roads, says official

By Raissa M. Dominguez

THE REHABILITATION of all primary national roads will be completed by 2014—a year earlier due to savings in public-works expenses, Public Works Secretary Dionisio M. Alcala said yesterday.

Alcala also said such savings are expected in the between P6 billion and P7 billion in the 28 months as December 2011 due to the agency administration's campaign to promote good governance.

The budget chief also said the campaign entailed open, competitive and transparent bidding of public works projects, goods and consultancy services.

"In the Department of Public Works and Highways alone, savings reached P1.1 billion from July 2010 to March 2011 due to the department's thrust of pursuing the right projects at the right cost with the right quality," Alcala said.

"DPWH savings will mean better, longer and quality roads," he added. "Good governance will help increase the riskiness of roads from eight inches to 11 inches."

Citing data from DPWH, Alcala said that of the total 15,070 kilometers of national secondary roads will be rehabilitated by 2012.

The DPWH also plans to complete the repair, reconstruction or replacement of all 7,393 national bridges by 2016, Alcala said.

Emerging markets soon . . .

Turn to page B6

Also, countries that may lead emerging markets in driving the global economy include China, India, Indonesia, Brazil and the Russian Federation.

The World Bank noted that currently, emerging markets accounted for two-thirds of the world's foreign exchange reserves—a reversal of the picture of the previous decade when industrialized countries stockpiled of the reserves.

China has the biggest share of the global reserves among emerging markets at $3 trillion.

"In short, a new world order with a more diffused distribution of economic power is emerging—thus the shift to emerging-market growth," the World Bank said in the report.

The rising role of emerging markets will eventually diminish the prominence of the US dollar in international trade and finance.

The World Bank said, eventually, countries would keep at least equal shares of the US dollar, the Euro and the Renminbi in their foreign exchange reserves.

The projections made by the World Bank came amid continued strength of emerging economies in terms of growth in output relative to their count, respects to the industrialized world.

Following the latest global crisis, which peaked in 2009, industrialized nations like the United States and a number from Europe have posted moderate recoveries, the sustainability of which is even doubted by some economists and analysts.

The United States, for one, is battling with its growing debt, broke countries from the Euro zone are also trying to cope with their debt woes.

On the other hand, emerging economies grew significantly last year and are expected this year to again outperform rich countries in terms of growth rates.

In the case of the Philippines, it grew by 7.3 percent last year, surpassing the 7 percent pace in more than a decade.

The domestic economy is expected to record a growth of more or less 6 percent this year, according to some economists.

Still, the government remains optimistic that the economy will sustain growth of at least 7 percent this year.

But the World Bank said some emerging markets faced difficult challenges that would make it less easier for them to contribute more to global output.

These challenges include rising oil prices, which have adversely affected consumption by oil-importing countries, and rising interest rates.

In 1st 4 months, gov't issued ₱1B in tax credits

THE GOVERNMENT issued P1.1 billion worth of tax credits in the first months in April, only about one-thirds of the amount given out in the same period in 2010, according to the Department of Finance.

Data from the BSP's One Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center show that tax credit certificates (TCCs) issued as of April 30 reached only to P1.100 billion from P3.026 billion in 2010.

Of the total P1.100 billion in TCCs were part of perks for investors and were issued by the Board of Investments.

Also, P194.4 million came in the form of duty drawbacks and approved by the Bureau of Customs, while P462.134 million was approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Through various laws, the government grants tax credits to allow taxpayers to offset their excess payments. Instead of getting a cash refund, the taxpayer can use the credits to settle future obligations.

Laws that give out tax credits include the Omnibus Investments Code, Tariff and Customs Code, Tax Code and Fisheries Code.

The tax credits are granted to exporters, suppliers of foreign-funded projects, and those engaged in fisheries (which are exempt from taxes on fuel oil).

For instance, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) released P13.8 billion worth of tax credits in the first months in April, only about one-thirds of the amount given out in the same period in 2010, according to the Department of Finance.

Data from the BSP's One Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center show that tax credit certificates (TCCs) issued as of April 30 reached only to P1.100 billion from P3.026 billion in 2010.

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Through various laws, the government grants tax credits to allow taxpayers to offset

By Raissa M. Dominguez

IMF power shift may end Europe's hold on top job

Newly empowered emerging nations could mount challenge

WASHINGTON—A power shift at the IMF toward emerging economies has the potential for a fierce battle over who should succeed Dominique Strauss-Kahn and may threaten Europe's long-standing claim to the top post.

The issue leaped unexpectedly into the spotlight with Strauss-Kahn's arrest in New York on sexual assault charges, which fueled speculation he will not survive as the global lender's top official. If he leaves, that would advance a succession decision from 2012 when his term was set to end.

Since Strauss-Kahn's selection in 2007 as managing director, there has been a major shift within the International Monetary Fund that has elevated China to No. 3 in voting power and given non-crisis-path countries Russia and Brazil a greater voice.

IMF board officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the issue, said finance ministers could be under pressure to show a speedy resolution to Strauss-Kahn's future as head of the organization, although others cautioned against judging him too soon.

Strauss-Kahn, who runs the vaunted hedge fund Medley Global Advisors, said on Monday he is fighting the charges.

"No matter how it plays out, it is going to be very difficult for Strauss-Kahn to be an effective leader of the IMF," said Rainer Prassel, a former IMF official now in the Brookings Institution think tank in Washington.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday that while it was not yet time to discuss succession, there was a good case for a European to be in the job.

Germany pointed to the debt crisis that has engulfed Ireland, Greece and Portugal in pressing its argument a European could bring a fuller understanding of one of the world's most pressing economic problems.

Strauss-Kahn has been deeply involved in talks over European Union and IMF bailouts for debt-strapped countries.

But another of his signature achievements has been reforming the IMF's voting structure to give emerging market economies more power.

In the past, emerging economies had just been unified enough to put forward a consensus candidate. Some think this time could be different.

Margaret-Anne Doyll, an analyst at IHS Global Insight in London, said China may decide to flex its new found muscle to try to get an emerging market candidate into the job.

It has contributed significant resources to the IMF in recent years in exchange for more voting power.

The IMF sought on Sunday to soothe concerns over Strauss-Kahn's absence by naming Deputy Managing Director John Lipsky as acting managing director.

Japan, the United States and Canada all expressed confidence on Sunday in Lipsky's ability to run the fund, but some Europeans at the IMF said he would not be as influential as Strauss-Kahn in dealing with Europe's debt crisis because he is not American.

Lipsky announced last week, however, that he was stepping down when his term expires in August, putting more pressure on the IMF to quickly resolve questions over its leadership.

"It is going to be a very complicated and heavily political matter," Prassel said. "Right now, the top job is in play and so is the number two position."

Ki-Hatoyo, Hiroaki Finance Minister Christine Lagarde emerged as a front-runner for the top position, although she hasn't formally announced she would agree to be. A French national has run the IMF for 36 out of the past 33 years and the unfortunate manner that Strauss-Kahn left office may make it difficult for France to make a case.

In Washington, former ministers, former Turkish Finance Minister Kemal Dervis, who now runs an economic program at the Brookings Institution, is a leading name. Turkey's status as a large emerging market would help address concerns that developing nations that feel shut out of the selection process.

Other possibilities are Agustin Carstens, governor of Mexico's central bank, and Mexican Finance Minister

PLDT gives a biz-grade boost to the SME's Internet service

These days, more and more Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are starting to see the importance of strong Internet connection. Gone are the days when Internet was perceived to be an edge; rather, it has become a basic tool in daily operations. For instance, coordination among the staff members and simple sales transactions are now done over the web. So how PLDT SME Nation comes into newly-upgraded, all-powerful PLDT myDSL Blu. Designed especially to cater to SMBs, PLDT myDSL Blu has just become even faster, more secure and more versatile than ever.

Fast reaction time is crucial to work flow, especially if one wants to keep up with the bigger business players. Good thing, SMEs can now experience business-grade speeds of up to 10mbps. This means sending and receiving emails can now be done with urgency and efficiency. Getting real-time feeds has also become ever more feasible, imagine receiving news as it happens and being able to react right away – now that's what we call being aggressive!

Another new feature of PLDT myDSL Blu is the Security Software Suite. The package helps the SME owner keep the office Internet network in optimal condition. The impressive security system comes free with every subscription and according to PLDT SME Nation Marketing Head Ami Aculin, they included Antivirus, Firewall, Antispyware, Fraud Protection, Web Blocker, PC Tune-Up and Privacy Manager software in the bundle in order to keep office networks protected from cyber crimes such as theft and viruses. Also, the software system gives the entrepreneur more room control of which files are sent and received.

To take advantage of this newfound speed and security, PLDT myDSL Blu now also comes with the Online Office Suite. Your own Virtual Office, this feature enables the SME with its own domain name and more email accounts with matching larger mailbox memory, just some of the few things that make doing business over the web even more professional and convenient.

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BUSINESS

Europe seeks to ease China's euro zone fears

EU countries determined to control deficits

BEIJING—Europe will not let the euro bail-out European Union countries are committed to cutting deficits, the president of the European Council told Chinese officials on Tuesday seeking to ease fears that the euro zone crisis could imperil China's investments.

"All EU countries are bringing down public deficits. The most vulnerable countries are undergoing drastic measures to restore out of their woes," Premier Herman Van Rompuy said in a speech at the Central Party School in southwest Beijing, which trains rising Chinese leaders.

His four-day China visit has coincided with a deterioration in Europe's 16-month sovereign debt crisis, with growing concerns that Greece would be forced to restructure its debts and Ireland and Portugal also coming under pressure.

China signaled last month that it was ready to buy more debt from the euro zone's weaker states. There are no precise figures, but China has said it has bought billions of euros of debt.

"The euro is the world's second reserve currency and a strong and stable currency—even more strong, compared, for instance, to your currency," he said. "We are determined to defend and develop these assets, to the benefit of our citizens and in a changing world economy."

"I want to acknowledge the confidence that China has demonstrated toward Europe in these difficult moments. It adds even more to to our common interest," Van Rompuy said in remarks to officials studying at the sprawling school.

Van Rompuy said that Greece and Ireland had received financial assistance attached to strict policy measures and that an agreement with Portugal had been reached.

"And all these measures mean you that although these countries enjoy a disproportionately high attention of international press, together they represent only 6 percent of the euro zone's GDP," he said.

Van Rompuy noted the strength-ening of the banking regulations and EU economic governance, with projections of 1.8 percent growth in the EU this year, and 2 percent growth in 2012.

"From the European side, our main contribution to stability for the world economy is first of all to put our house in order, stronger governance of the euro zone, and tackling the problems of weak economies and weak budgets," he said.

Van Rompuy also delicately pressed again on human rights and democracy in his speech to Communist officials who will one day be charged with running the one-Party state, saying the world should learn a lesson from the present Middle East turmoil.

"For us, the Arab Spring has been a close reminder that the values of justice, democracy and social development are universal," he said.

China's leaders are increasingly unyielding in the face of Western pressure but also wary about what they see as foreign-inspired dissent and subversion.

That alarm only grew after overseas Chinese websites in February spread calls for protests across China inspired by the Tunisian/Egyptian "jasmine revolution" of anti-authoritarian uprisings across the Arab world.

China has this year jailed, detained or placed in seventeen judicial custody dozens of dissidents, human rights lawyers and protesters it fears will challenge Communist Party rule. Reuters

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Summer travel seen growing despite rising fares, group says

DALLAS—Air airline industry trade group says that more seats, higher fares, more people will fly this summer than last year, especially overseas.

The Air Transport Association said Monday that it expects 206 million passengers will travel on US airlines in June, July and August, a 1.3 percent increase over the same months in 2010.

If the forecast is right, travel will remain below pre-recession levels.

In 2007, US airlines carried a record 217 million summer travelers.

The airline trade group expects minimal growth in domestic travel this summer, but a record 20.5 million passengers on international flights operated by US airlines, topping 2010's 15.8 million.

The group said that's partly due to stronger economies outside the United States.

And, while driving is an option for summer trips to the country, Americans must fly to get to Europe or Asia.

Airlines have raised fares more than a half-dozen times this year to cover a 30 percent increase in fuel prices.

The average round-trip domestic fare last summer was $368, according to government figures. It would be $379 per person this summer if fares rise again as much as they did last summer.

That's not counting fees passengers might pay for checked bags, more recently for the other items.

Some airline executives have publicly wondered how much more consumers can take.

John Heimlich, chief economist for the air transport group, noted that passenger revenue rose in the first quarter, which he said included that people are still willing to travel, even as fuel prices rise.

But Helane Becker, an analyst with Dahlman Rose & Co., said since most leisure travelers book late to cut costs, the higher airfares forced some people to plan Memorial Day trips that don't involve flying.

US airlines had 43 billions in the first quarter of this year.

Still, if summer travel matches the forecasts, and if the recent drop in oil prices sticks, the airlines are likely to record a repeat of 2008, when record fuel prices spurred talk about which airlines were most likely to go bankrupt.

"We don't see the same level of panic," Heimlich said. "It's a smoother summer and sort of a feeling of, 'We've seen this before.'" AP

Japan economy in severe state, says Bank of Japan

TOKYO—Bank of Japan Governor Masaaki Shirakawa said the country's economy was in a very severe state due to damage from the March earthquake, signaling that the central bank was sticking to its ultra-loose monetary policy line.

Shirakawa comments came as the BOJ would do its utmost to beat deflation but added that any price rises needed to be driven by solid economic growth, emphasizing the need for policies to boost Japan's potential growth.

"Deflation is a very serious problem. But the more severe problem is that Japan economic strength is gradually declining," Shirakawa told a parliamentary committee meeting on Tuesday.

Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda told the same committee that beating deflation was a top priority for the government, even as it bodies to contain the damage from the devastating earthquake.

Japan has been mired in deflation for much of the past decade but the fall in core consumer prices narrowed to a 0.1 percent year-on-year drop in March, due largely to a spike in commodity prices.

The BOJ expects core consumer prices to rise 0.7 percent in both the current fiscal year from April and the 04-2012 fiscal year, factoring fuel and food costs. But it has said price rises alone will not prompt it to unwind its easy policy.

The BOJ is expected to keep policy on hold this week, but observers are cautious to rule further if the quake's damage to the economy grows bigger than expected.

Japan is facing its worst crisis since World War Two after the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and a deadly tsunami battered its northeast coast on March 11, leaving about 25,000 dead or missing and crippling a number plants.

The world's third-largest economy is set to log three straight quarters of contraction at the end of June, sticking back into recession, a Reuters poll showed.

While the downturn is as severe as during the financial crisis, the BOJ has made a distinction between what happened then and what the economy has faced after the quake.

"The Japanese economy faced a 'demand' shock caused by the financial crisis' after US investment bank Lehman Brothers collapsed in 2008, BOJ Executive Director Hitoshi Nakao told Reuters in an interview last month.

"This time around, Japan is facing a 'supply' shock as factories over a vast area were destroyed and there is disruption in the supply chain," he said.

The BOJ has said that once supply constraints ease, the economy will recover underpin by intense demand for goods is still there. Unless this view comes under threat or a renewed yen spike hurts business sentiment, it is expected to hold off on easing policy further. Reuters

MOTORING

Editor Jong R. Amano

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Maico Buncio: Gone too soon

Death of superbike champ a big loss for motorsports

By Charlie E. Bolzon

VERY JEEP lover in love Maico Ilong Buncio. He has that swagger and boyish charm that could easily win over any girl's heart. His memory of the motorcycle could even make even non-car connoisseurs respect and watch him with envious eyes.

And with that spark of hunger in his eyes, nobody would be a bold enough to say that the 2010 Philippine Superbike champion Asian Superbike Championship and motorcycle racing including the FIM Motocross Series in Tagaytay, the FIM Motocross Des Nations in Valkenswaard, Netherlands, and in various competitions at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Setting his eyes on similar competitions abroad, the 2011 Cubbies Wheel Editor of the Year was chosen by Team Suzuki Philippines to be among the country's representatives in the Asian Road Racing Championship season on the World Superbike Championship and eventually the MotoGP.

Having debuted in the inaugural race held last April 3 at the Sepang Circuit in Malaysia, Buncio is looking forward to the next stages that will be held in Sentul Circuit in Indonesia (June 9 to 12) and Madras Circuit in India (Aug. 4 to 7).

Cruel hand

However, fate played a cruel hand, as Buncio's 1000 RR1 motorbike slipped and hit a guardrail at the Clark Speedway Racing Circuit in Angeles, Pampanga.

Buncio was thrown off his bike, suffered into an unfortunate location of the race track where a oncoming steel has pounced his body, damaging his kidney and liver in the process.

He was brought to a hospital in Malabang town before he was transferred to the UST Hospital where he died the next day.

"Maico was like my baby brother in racing. When I was still racing in superbikes he was then starting, over did bike and I and coaches compatriots," lamented Jose Leo Tamayo, the country's first female superbike racer and a close friend of Buncio.

Tamayo added that Buncio's death highlights the inherent danger in motorsport and that danger always lurks in a sport that can never be made 100 percent safe.

"What is why I believe in the saying that if it's your time, then it's your time," she added.

New rules

But while freak accidents are a sad reality of motorsport, the death of Buncio has also underscored throughout the local motorsports industry that safety must be the issue of track safety, track maintenance, organizers, medical facilities at the tracks.

Team Suzuki Philippines, in a statement, said that Buncio has survived numerous crashes in the past, often unscathed.

"But the injury he suffered from the fall in general sustained is unprecedented. An investigation will be conducted to determine the course of action on the maintenance of the race

MAICO BUNCIO

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Technical Knockout

Subaru Forester a boost-happy family transporter

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

IF YOU think a full-size SUV is just too unwieldy, and a hatchback one is just, well, bad, then trust your sights at the unassuming profile of a Subaru Forester. You may find out quite later on that its station wagon-mini-me looks grows on you.

The Forester, despite the name alluding to things related to the wood-lands, is really designed for the off-road, state expert Mike Chapman, for one, is of the opinion that the Forester is a spacious and relatively tall station wagon. Its ideal customers would be the baby-boomerlings who may have occasional back pains, and who have small children. The Forester offers masses of head and leg room, an adequately authoritative driving position, and a usefully square cargo area that can accommodate a large dog in any comfort or else meet the necessities of a small upset meat lovers meeting.

The Forester's looks goes well with any gender a husband can even the other to buy this without depriving himself the time to be on the race-track on certain occasions. Subaru, which is well known in motorsport circles as used to think in the World Rally Championship, has given the Forester the steps and functionality in equal parts in the Forester. In cars, the Forester has attracted many potential buyers who know cars and their history.

In terms of comfort issue, the Forester has stood enough the test. Since 80% has used extensively, and even the tough the sedan markets, judging by its wildly named buyers' profiles. These are buyers who: 1. demand a just-right sized vehicle with car like driving feel, and 2. would want more rugged capabilities in their vehicle that the average hatchback can support.

Motor Image Philippines, the exclusive dealer of Subaru in the Philippines, patently offered this author a test drive to get up close and personal with a Fujitsu Pixel Pixel Porsche. Of course, this writer gamely obliged.

I must mentioned its commanding view of the road that many petite ladys drivers would appreciate in their cities. There is, indeed, generous head and leg room and an adequate cargo area, and despite all that, the Forester has an like proportion, coupled with that car-like feel. For a family of five, the Forester hits the spot; anything bigger can already be considered impractical.

Starting the Forester out on the second-gig mountain passes of eastern Laguna going to the town of Luisiana that sits on the side of Mt. Banahaw, the driver was a breeze, with minimal body roll even during the tight elbow turns from Cavinti to Luisiana. And since power a second to all four tires all the time, the Forester maintained its strong momentum to the road, maintaining handling and control. For the passengers at the back, the three-point seatbelts, even for the middle seats, helped immensely in securing passenger comfort and confidence. The number of cupholders was also adequate, as two solid cupholders are available in a fold-out compartment at the middle back seat.

The big sky roof—big enough to encompass the view of Mt. Banahaw and San Cristobal—is an added treat for lovers of the outdoors. And we were appreciated that on this scenic afternoon drive.

On a separate occasion, I had for a ride from Alabang to Calamba and back a couple of senior citizens. They had nothing but favorable remarks on the Forester, ranging from it being "ergonomically smooth" to ride, to this being "not exciting ride at all compared to my experience with other SUVs and crossovers."

Another 65 year old female executive, a particularly meticulous customer when it comes to her rides, noticed that the ground clearance was just right for her physical sensibilities. And being that she was on the hunt for a new SUV or crossover vehicle, she said the Forester was, indeed, on top of her list of cars to seriously consider as her next ride.

For customers than Subaru designers can take note of is the absence of an air-conditioning vent at the back seat. Owners of Foresters living in tropical climates would surely appreciate its addition.

Knockout punch

Driving the Forester, and extracting power from its 2.5-liter turbocharged powerplant is no sense. Even the cruise control is easy enough to engage and disengage. It can keep to any-city stop-and-go traffic. The considerable curb weight (1,530 kg), plus the standard equipment (electric footprint the accelerator a bit. But the quicker and responding a helmet and the back end of your car isn't fitted with a parachute, at the kick that this Forester gives should be more than enough to get you going ahead of the rest.

The various for such power, of course, is the added fuel consumption. In the Forester, that consideration is underlined by the fact that the manufacturer supposedly requires the owner to load the Forester up with 95 or more octane fuel only. That feature us with higher-end fuels like Shell V Power, Petron Blaze, or Caltex Gold that should cost around P50 more per liter than regular unleaded gas. For the fuel-conscientious family man, or woman, the real-time fuel consumption gauge on the center instrument panel of the Forester is like the clock during a court sweetening—at times reading 2 liters per kilometer, at times reading 7 liters per kilometer. The Forester is fastened is ready 50 liters per 1 liters. My advice to the easily startled: Switch to the average fuel consumption readouts instead, and it'll be like a speedwalk. Slow and easy.

Speaking of fuel consumption, here's the score: 11 km/l in "Normal" mode (results fluxed on both digital readouts and manual empty-to-fill-tank tests); A consistent 7 km in 11 km per liter on combined highway and city runs. Competing the Subaru Maintenance Service package list, I have arrived at a figure of P400,000 as representing the cost of maintaining the all-wheel drive Forester for the first 100,000 km.

Sounds hefty, doesn't it? But what the Forester promises, in return, is no less-than-matter. Good ride capabilities sufficient even for off-roading, reasonable ease of use on both highway and city, and the rest of the family can appreciate.

For the required P1.758 million to own the Forester, owners get all that, plus the uniqueness of having a symmetrical all-wheel-drive system matched with the 2.5 liter DOHC Subaru Boxer turbocharged engine that gives owners an almost perfectly symmetrical layout, maximizing delivery with exceptional traction that promotes balance and stability for total control in almost any condition. A high floor intercooler, active valve control system and virtually no turbo lag generate a surprise of torque, a continuous crescendo of acceleration and instantaneous fun.

That's knockout power, along with saving the sanctum of Pleiades.

LUCIDAN GUITE P 2017 Forester about to plug in for all the fuel-guzzling to-do. The Forester offers one of the most innovative—Sunday if he/she is a compact SUV—about 77 on the XT A/T unit (if of which address passenger and driver safety).

HIGH-QUALITY fuel to get the horses roaring. The recommended octane rating to make the horses really squeal: 95 octane. Turbocharged, DOHC, 16-valve. Forester 2.5XT horn is 95 and up.

TIGHT CLEARANCE: Drivers of this outdoors can look forward to, the Forester offers a wide rear gate, and can tow up to 1,000 kg of load. The cargo area can accommodate four large suitcases or four golf club bags, while an array of human fridge inserts smaller items. For larger items, the rear seat/fold flat in a 60/40 split.

THE THICKET: Knocked Mount Making provides the ideal backdrop for the Forester, as long as long-looking station wagon that packs a punch under the hood: A turbocharged 2.5-liter Subaru Boxer engine generating 224 ps (220 hp), and max torque of 323Nm (300lbs-ft). The Forester measures 4560 mm long, 1795 millimeters and 1700 mm tall.

It's true, the diesel Cruze is here

YOU ASKED for it, you got it.

The arena to be the proud declaration of Chevrolet Philippines The Covenant Car Company Inc. (TCCI) in bringing to the new diesel Cruze to boost the number of diesel offerings.

It all started as a buzz. But when TCCI felt there was enough demand to come up with supply, it decided to make the diesel Cruze available although initially on limited offer only.

"We've recently finished the inclusion of the diesel Cruze to the Chevrolet lineup to address the market's wants for a more powerful diesel engine and fuel-efficient compact sedan," said Lyn Ibasco, TCCI's director for marketing and customer services.

The Cruze diesel 2.0L is a product of a 37-month development program, with prototypes tested all over the world. Because of this, prospective Cruze diesel owners can be treated to a ride that boasts of a sophisticated ignited look and the advantage of a powerful diesel engine that runs from zero to 100kph in 9.9 seconds.

Equipped with a 4-cylinder CRI SOHC Diesel Turbo engine with 1991cc displacement, maximum power of 148ps at 4000 rpm and maximum torque of 236 at 2000 rpm mated with 6-speed automatic transmission. All that and comes with unprecedented safety. Standard are 4-wheel disc brakes, anti-lock brake system (ABS), electronic brake force distribution (EBD), standard electronic traction control (ETC) and automatic climate control.

And to add to the impressive list, the Chevrolet Cruze Diesel lists just as well when it comes to providing convenience loaded to the brim above the expected power amenities.

It the audio/video/connectivity, this variant comes with a CD/MP3 player (6+CD), steering wheel-mounted audio controls, six speakers, USB port and auxiliary input, graphic information display and multi-information display.

This model comes with power-folding side view mirrors and rain-sensing wipers, leather seats, 17-inch alloy wheels and many more features. The Cruze is sold for P1.228 million.

What's more, the new diesel Cruze is also covered by the Chevy 5-year warranty program which is part of Chevrolet's ongoing drive to put premium in excellent products and services. By offering warranty coverage of five years or 100,000 kms, whichever comes first, Chevrolet offers its loyal customers the opportunity to extend their money's worth through a commitment that the product remains in good condition for a longer period of time. Aside from the advantage of a lower cost of ownership, longer warranty coverage guarantees that repairs will be performed when needed.

THE DIESEL Cruze. Convenience loaded to the brim.

BMW named 4-Wheel Drive Car of the Year

AMONG 405 impressive cars on the international automotive markets, the new BMW X3 has rightly become the stunning star in its segment. Winning the title of "Four-Wheel Drive Car of the Year 2011" awarded by the specialist car magazine "Auto Bild Allrad", is reason proud of the new BMW X3's concept totally high degree of popularity. The new BMW X3 is the only car to be awarded by Europe's biggest-selling specialist journal for four-wheel drive cars is already the BMW X3's second title victory this year. Only a few weeks ago, readers of the magazine "Off Road" voted the Sports Activity Vehicle "Off-road Vehicle of the Year 2011." With this double success, the new BMW X3 is quick in following the traces of its predecessor, which, in 2006 and 2007, was able to secure the readers' vote of both periodicals twice in succession.

For the 11th time now, readers of "Auto Bild Allrad" were asked to name their favourite models from those available on the German car market. In nine categories, there were more than 130 four-wheel drive vehicles to choose from. The new BMW X3 prompted several first place in the category "Off-road vehicles and SUVs." The associated title of "Four-Wheel Drive Car of the Year 2011" was awarded during a festive ceremony in Frankfurt recently.

With a convincing design, a unique combination of sportiness and efficiency as well as the largest and most variable luggage compartment in the competitive environment, the BMW X3 yet again sets standards in driving pleasure, versatility and practicality quality. Compared to the predecessor model, with which BMW established the concept of the Sports Activity Vehicle in this segment, it offers a considerable increase in space, even more efficient engines, optimum steering, suspension and a substantial range of innovative equipment features. Both as the front and as the rear the new BMW X3 convinces through outstanding travel comfort and a high-class ambience. With a 550-litre loading capacity which can be increased to 1,600 litres and 40/20/40 split-folding rear seats, the vehicle's carrying capacities also set new benchmarks for the segment.

Depending on the engine variant, the new BMW X3 features an eight-speed automatic transmission either as standard or as an option. The xDrive all-wheel drive system also ensures optimum traction and maximum road stability on slippery surfaces. The xDrive system distributes the drive power fully variably between front and rear axle, depending on the current driving situation. The system can even transfer up to 100 percent of the drive power to the front or rear axle, if required. Thanks to the integration of the xDrive system into the Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), the vehicle's driving dynamics can be influenced in a targeted manner. The DSC intervenes in the brake system and the engine management system in order to stabilise the vehicle in critical situations.

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For more details, email infoline-tcm@bmw.com.ph

Keeping things cool underneath your hood

LAST WEEK we gave a general overview of the functions and importance of your cooling system. This time we'll discuss how to maintain it properly to ensure your cooling system is doing its job: keeping things cool underneath your hood.

The most basic form of maintenance for your cooling system is to flush out everything inside and replace it with new water / coolant mix. Buying radiator flush, mixing it into your old / existing water / coolant mix, then driving around for 20 minutes to let it mix while already removing rust, dirt and other fine particle build-up in your system, works well. But the best, most ideal form of coolant flushing is via the Lavranceo treatment.

The Lavranceo cooling system treatment smashes your car's cooling system in a manner that outdoes that was developed by the high-pressure water and chemicals from the Lavranceo device. Currently, there are only two shops in my knowledge with a Lavranceo cooling system treatment device: Dollar Service Center in Tomas Morato, Quezon City, near E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., and DTM / Autocentric also along Aurel Street, Port Area/Isla Global City, Taguig.

The Lavranceo treatment, along with vehicle preparation, can take as long as six hours on a single car as labor-intensive work is involved. But what you bring your car to them is not critical, so prepare to leave it overnight at the most. I'm a firm believer in the Lavranceo cooling system treatment because in my own car, after more than six hours of treatment, we were able to fill up a big cup about 300ml in size full of dirt, mud, crud and other fine particle build-up that was dislodged from the engine and the radiator. Immediately after, cooling performance improved as displayed by an excellent 203°F-treated coolant temperature gauge. From a previous high of 96 degrees Celsius, my cooling system struggles to get past 80-85 degrees Celsius even on a hot and humid day with the a/c on at full blast. It is imperative to have your car receive a Lavranceo treatment if it is over 5 years old or 100,000 kilometers in mileage, or if you have used unknown quantities of anything but distilled water on your car over prolonged periods of time, or if you subject your car to heavy use regularly, like motorsports, high-performance driving or off-road driving where engine speeds go high and vehicle speeds are low, thus taxing your engine and cooling system considerably more than normal.

The next form of maintenance is to replace the parts. If after a Lavranceo treatment, coolant flow is slow on the outlet side of your radiator, then chances are your radiator is irreparably clogged and blocked from the inside. This generally only happens when you leave your radiator exposed to build-up for prolonged periods of time. It's expensive, but won't damage any. Also, while doing a Lavranceo treatment, inspect the rubber hoses and the areas where they clamp or attach to the radiator and engine for leaks. Pay particular attention to pinhole leaks. If there are any signs of leaks, replace the hoses, as well as clear clamps holding the hoses. Check the end tanks of your radiator as well. Most modern cars utilize an aluminum alloy radiator core with brazed plastic end tanks attached to them. Over time, these plastic end tanks tend to start leaking where they attach to the core, or on the plastic body itself. When you see these leaks, it's also time to replace them.

Check your thermostat if it is working properly as well. Place your thermometer in a small pan filled with boiling water. If the thermostat opens its valve, then it is working properly. If it doesn't, it's time to replace it. If you will be running your old, properly working thermostat, make sure to replace the rubber gasket that surrounds the outer body of the thermostat to prevent leaks.

Another oft-ignored part is the radiator cap. After normal use, check to see if the underside of the radiator cap, which is the fill-in area for coolant / water, or has coolant residue. If there is residue, then chances are it's leaking, unable to hold pressure. Replace it immediately.

If you are manually flushing out your old water / coolant mix, when you drain the old fluid out, collect and label out all the air pockets, a handy tip is to park the car in an incline where the front end and radiator is higher than the rear end. You can also jack up the front end of the car to place your radiator as high up as possible. With the radiator being at the highest point, this ensures that air pockets and bubbles trapped inside your engine and cylinder will make their way out. Air pockets and bubbles trapped inside your engine is dangerous as air is a poor conductor of heat since itself and prevents water / coolant from absorbing heat from your engine. Additionally, if you have a heater option in your car, climb up the heater to the highest / hottest level possible to fully open up your heater core and allow fresh water / coolant to come in and fill it up. Sometimes overheating is caused by activating the heater function and opening up the heater core, which ends up releasing air pockets trapped inside the heater core and clean your engine.

After filling it up and ensuring that there are no more air bubbles, drive it around normally for a day or two, then on the third day remove your radiator cap to see if there are any leaks. Even on the third day remove your radiator cap to see if there are any leaks. Even on the third day remove your radiator cap to see if there are any leaks. Even

Pepito Alvarez and the 1.6 Kia Soul

ON THE ROAD

Alda Sevilla-Mendoza

AFTER TESTDRIVING the 1.6 Liter Kia Soul for a week, nothing could be more coincidental than to chat over lunch with the chairman of the company that distributes it, Jose Ch. Alvarez of Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC).

"Pepito" Alvarez joined the motoring and sports media at noon at the Alabang Country Club on May 12 in sign up CAC as the official transport provider of the popular Azkals football team. Aside from CAC, Alvarez also chairs Asian Carmakers Corp. (ACC), which in 2009 was appointed by SMPC Group then to take over the Philippine distribution of the prestigious Peugeot brand. Who else but an auto industry veteran like Pepito Alvarez could successfully juggle two very disparate brands—the low-cost Korean Kia and the premium-priced German BMW?

Competing in both the affordable segment and the luxury car niche has given Alvarez unique insight into the progress of automotive technology. "I never thought that Kia would ever reach this high level of quality," he confided. "Now, all the technology of German cars can be found in Kia." He was particularly impressed with the performance of Kia cars when he visited recently the 2.8-mile oval test track shared by Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia in South Korea (Hyundai owns 35 percent of Kia.)

So far until he had never doubted the excellence of Kia cars. He talked about a friend who owns a 10-year-old Sorento and seems to keep it because he hasn't had to change anything except the tires. (I myself remember seeing a Kia Pride driving through Kano-Roop Headwaters in Las Piñas in 1997 not here fathering.)

FIRST ASSEMBLER

Boomerang, Alvarez said that he was the first assembler of Kia cars outside Korea. "In 1999, he was ordered to teach the Kia brand," he recalled. "We assembled and introduced the Kia Pride and then the K2700 light commercial vehicle." Note: CAC has 316 dealerships and sales outlets nationwide that market 10 Kia models: the Picanto (which replaced the Pride), Rio, Carens, Forte sedan, Forte Koup, Carnival, Sorento, Sportage, Optima and Soul. Most are imported CBUs, but CAC is opening a new assembly plant soon that will presumably produce a few of these models. Alvarez revealed that the new plant will assemble a vehicle to compare with the Hyundai Grand Starex, currently the best-selling minivan in the country.

In 2009, CAC was recognized as the number one Kia distributor in the Asia-Pacific region. Why then, is CAC not yet offering the all-new 2011 Sportage compact SUV which has earned rave reviews abroad? At present, CAC has only one demo unit of the new Sportage. Alvarez explained that the Sportage—especially the CRD variant—is selling so well globally that production cannot keep up with demand. He claimed not to know when the new Sportage will be launched here, nor the all-new Picanto.

"I don't meddle with details," he said, hinting at his retirement strategy. He also remarks that he had been prepared for him. "I gave the presidency of my companies a free hand." He added that he mainly reports to CEOs to deliver a higher sales report at year-end. Asked how many business enterprises he owns, Alvarez, who is vice president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (Campi), replied vaguely that he can't keep track of all except his car companies, which aside from CAC and ACC includes a Nissan firm.

JOLTED

Alvarez jolted the auto industry earlier this year when he simultaneously appointed two women to head CAC and ACC, respectively: former Ford Philippines Sales AVP Gina Domingo succeeded Felix Mabilog (a who retired last February while ACC marketing director Maricar Pinto replaced outgoing ACC president Bobby Sison also.

At the 2010-2011 Car of the Year Awards night last April, newly installed CAC president Gina Domingo accepted the Best Sub-compact Crossover trophy for the 1.6 Kia Soul 1.5L. In 2009, the 2.0 liter Kia Soul EX (CVT-310M) won the same category award. Having already sold less about the Soul 2.0 EX (CVT-automatic) from Seoul," Sep. 30, 2009), let me just mention five differences. The 1999/2008 Soul 1.6 LX has the same dimensions, wheelbase and ground clearance as the 2.0 EX but not the latter's roof rails, fog lamps and body graphics.

The Camera 1.6 (0.0081) 16 valve engine also has a 4-speed automatic transmission and 2-wheel drive. But its catalytic converter and produce 124 ps compared to the 2.0 EX's 142 ps. Max torque is 15.9 kg.m/ 6200 rpm while the EX's 19.0 kg.m/4600 rpm. The 1.6 LX's brakes are its 16-inch alloy wheels are ventilated disks in front and drums at the rear while the 2.0 EX has disc brakes on all four (4-inch) wheels. The suspension of the same—front independent coil springs and coupled torsion beam at the back. But while the EX has dual airbags, the LX only has one. Both have ABS, a CD MP3 integrated AM/FM with AUX in and USB, but the 2.0 EX has eight speakers while the 1.6 LX only has six. The interior of the 1.6 LX is plainer than the 2.0 EX's, which has a blood-red color theme, metal soft-ring lights and speakers that pulse to the beat of the music.

Despite its lesser specs, the 1.6 Soul LX is thrifty, funky and comfy enough—unless you want to pay Pepito dearest the P425,000 price difference.

COLUMBIAN Autocar Corp. chairman Pepito Alvarez (fourth from left) and Azkals team manager Dan Palami (fifth from left) signing symbolic pens during ceremony announcing Kia to be team's official vehicle of the Alabang Country Club. Looking on are, from left, CAC marketing services head Paterno Soriano, CAC VP for marketing Dodie Salao, CAC president Gina Domingo and Azkals assistant coaches Rolando Pinero and Edwin Cubeñas.

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'Closed' Audi for Le Mans

AUDI IS set to contest the famous 24 Hours of Le Mans with a closed car for the first time since 1999. Aerodynamic efficiency was the basis of aesthetics during development of the new Audi R18 TDI because it plays an even larger role at Le Mans than it's the case.

"A closed car is not necessarily more efficient," stresses Dr Martin Mühlmeier, Head of Technology at Audi Sport. "Race cars designed to generate very high downforce levels, in formula 1 for example, are also very efficient 'open' designs. If you want to provide the diversion of low drag or must, like now at Le Mans with the engine power being reduced and the circuit characteristics still dominated by long straights and high speed, then is 'closed' car is more efficient than an 'open' one."

For the season, Audi Sport has dropped the 'roadster' concept with which the four-rings brand recorded nine Le Mans victories between 2000 and 2010. Head of Audi Motorsport Dr Wolfgang Ullrich has stated before: "I really liked the 'open' cars but there are beautiful 'closed' sports prototypes as well...and I think that the R18 TDI is a typical Audi: making a very good visual impression."

It is, however, not only aerodynamic efficiency that plays a role in the decision for or against a "closed" car. The sporting regulations developed in such a way over the years that one of the roadster's greatest advantages—namely fuel driver changes—was eradicated: changing tyres at Le Mans now takes considerably longer due to the fewer number of mechanics allowed to work simultaneously on the car. Therefore a fuel driver change is no longer a decisive factor.

Turbulence in the cockpit area is the greatest disadvantage "open" race cars have with regard to a good oil value. Airflow around a closed car like the R18 TDI is significantly more uniform. The resulting increase in aerodynamic efficiency can be transformed into either more downforce or greater top speed.

The wind tunnel continues to play a major role during the development of a Le Mans sports car. The relevance of so-called CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) simulations on high-performance computers was increased significantly. CFD allows engineers to simulate the air flow around and through the car. "While basic concepts and also complex detail tests are calculated, performance relevant dynamic running conditions can be evaluated in the model wind tunnel," explains Axel Löffler, head of chassis development and aerodynamics at Audi Sport.

Opti mization of the aerodynamic efficiencies in different dynamic attitudes was one of the most important points to the R18 TDI performance specification. "The ground clearance changes, at high speeds the car is closer to the track due to the downforce," says Mühlmeier.

Media sector presents the 22nd PAC

change the game

By Ivy Ong

ADVERTISING hinges on the cooperation of the five sectors making up the industry: advertisers, agencies, suppliers, market research and media. This year, the crucial task of hosting the biggest and most important event of the advertising industry, the Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC), goes to the media sector.

The media groups organizing the 22nd PAC—namely the United Print Media Group (UPMG), the Cinema Advertising Association of the Philippines (CAAP), the Independent Blacklisters Association of the Philippines (IBA), the Internet and Mobile Marketing Association of the Philippines (IMMAP) and the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP)—are shaking up ad congress traditions to promote this year's theme, "Change the Game."

"Having the UPMG, CAAP, IBA, IMMAP and OAAP band together to host the 22nd PAC shows the significance of unity and solidarity of the group," says 22nd PAC chairperson Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

"It is a great opportunity for us to give back to the industry. We are planning a lot of new ways of doing things this year and the only way to ensure success is for every one to cooperate and get on board to ensure that positive changes are made for the betterment of the industry."

The 22nd PAC is the moment to embrace new things. This is the first time it takes place in Camarines Sur, at the Camsur Watersports Complex in Pasacao on November 16-19, 2011 and the first time an online registration system will be used to enlist participants beginning June.

"The goal of the administration team is to help make the 22nd PAC's theme come to life through the delivery of an efficient, well-organized and professionally run Indigenous conference," says advertising industry committee chair Rhon Fernandez.

"One of the ways to do this is the online registration. The basic system to be used has been tried and tested by CamSur in many of its international events over the past 2 years.

"The CamSur team even adjusted it to accommodate requests from some of our industry colleagues, i.e. payment in check or

MEDIA, B2 »

CamSur Watersports Complex

Making the 22nd PAC an adventure

The CamSur Watersports Complex (CWC) becomes the news center of the 22nd Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) on November 16-19, 2011. While many international sporting events have been held in Camarines Sur and the CWC over the past years, hosting another CamSur to a first in convergence history.

CamSur made a name for itself among the 80 provinces of the Philippines by building on the potential of its tourism for water sports enthusiasts. With the rise of the CWC, tourists and water sports enthusiasts from around the world have come to seek out adventure in CamSur.

The CWC features a world-class international water sports complex with a six-point cable ski system for cable skiing, wakeboarding, knee boarding, water skiing and wake skating. It is now widely known to water circles as the best cable park in Asia. And on top of the water sports complex, the CWC also features a skate park and bike trail.

Across the road from CWC is the Lago del Rey family entertainment and water sports facility. A giant man-made lake created to offer visitors a breather from the extreme water sports activities within CWC, the Lago del Rey has become an attraction for families. It features giant water slides, an open obstacle course and boat-towed wakeboarding or skiing. Families can go swimming, kayaking, dragonboating, open wall climbing or play water volleyball and water polo.

Spanning events would be seamlessly highlighted in conjunction with seminars in the 22nd PAC, as delegates are going to get a chance to enjoy the CWC's facilities. All participants would receive a free one-hour wakeboarding voucher which would be valid for three months at CWC.

The 22nd PAC is headed for an adventure in CamSur. A balance of exciting sports and informative talks is the aim this year.

Delegates should find the venue important in further ties that have been established for both - CWC is the only resort complex in the Philippines that is developed together with a convention area. Hotel facilities and venues for parties, promos and expos. The CWC is also WiFi equipped via digital fiber optics and offers Internet access free.

The air congress is taking-off and the final ground in CamSur this year. It will make advertising history as one when the industry embarked on a new adventure together.

Designed for change, Ad Congress speakers are new media thinkers

By Aya P Villasin

THE EVENT may be a hub of learning, but who says it can't be fun? For the 22nd Philippine Advertising Congress (AdCon), the Adboard brings in baby dinos such as mallows on the sermons of the Gateway Waterspouts Complex (GWC). It is one of many pioneer movements that made this year's theme, Change the Game, feel in not less than a call to action.

As far as the AdCon goes, it has always behaved the running with the learning. While all the advertising preparations are underway, the Program Committee has confirmed a list of speakers that packs the punches.

"The AdCon speakers are from established brands. We invited speakers who will challenge our way of thinking and approach," stresses Sharon Tolosa, Program Committee chair and VP for Marketing of McDonald's.

For the Plenary speakers are Charlene Li, the author of the bestselling book Groundswell and founder of Altimeter, a consultancy group specializing on new media, and Charles Cadell, Regional Managing Director for Southeast Asia and Australia at BarCaso Worldgroup.

Laura E. Welch, Vice president and Managing Director of Walt Disney Television International (Southeast Asia), and John Miller, World Philippines' CEO will also share how established brands can change the game. How brands like Rexonaman still share how they did the same with their product.

Tolosa' committee will pull off a hat-trick this year as the AdCon will witness the unprecedented feat of seeing together on one stage the Dianmers of the top three TV networks. Eugenio "Vicky" Lopez III of ABS-CBN, Amy Felipe Gozon of GMA Network and Manuel V. Pangilinan of TV 5 discussing the future of media.

Charlene Li

Also joining the Gateher subject as speaker is Patrick Bhull, Freemantle Asia Managing Director. Freemantle is the producer of the TV reality show Big Brother.

"My take on game changing is beyond webcasts, gi, digital media and social networks. It is about breakthrough thinking and innovative approach," says Tolosa.

Media sector presents the 22nd PAC

From page B1

cash instead of simply through ATM, bank counters and credit card. The online registration will allow us not only to pay the delegates' fees but also book our accommodations and possibly, our flights to Baga."

Tonight, in an event hosted by the BIMK, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Philippine STAR, the Manila Bulletin, Business Mirror and Business World team up to officially launch the 22nd PAC in the Genting Club, Resorts World. The launch of the 22nd PAC is organized to incorporate such events organizer Pinoy Ad Ventures, Inc., who gives the Genting Club a feel of Cubao: as if transforms the place into a sports-adventure zone to get everyone in the mood for ad congress.

This event finally unveils ad agency Leo Burnett Manila's contemporary 22nd PAC logo and ad campaign, as well as the new ad congress website – products of the creative team's passion for Cantine, lead by executive creative director Raoul Bunoa who grew up in the province's Baga City.

"This year's ad congress is really something to look forward to," says the Philippine STAR president and 22nd PAC PR and publicity committee chair Miguel Belmonte.

"Especially now that Cantine is the venue, it's one congress that no one should miss. There's going to be a lot of fun and surprises."

Participants are in for a different and exciting experience as organizing committees set out to make the 22nd PAC more interactive, with a better balance between speakers' seminars and sports events.

One of the biggest organized activities in the ad congress, the Amazing Quest, will test participants' strength, dexterity and wit. "Though still being fine-tuned, this fantastic scavenger of Amazing Quest came from Pint Adventures, who handles the events at Cantine: he Gov. Luzy Villafuerte," says sports events committee chairman Pinky Megre.

Individuals in the Amazing Quest would have to conquer Fire pit stops - Tagalons, Barong Gods, Quest Zone, Coin Nordo and Cantina - wherein reality TV-style challenges await participating game-changers. Delegates shall also get the chance to experience water sports like wake boarding, dragon boat racing, water obstacles and banana-wake/wall among other sports events.

The trade exhibit is also taking a show-off now as before launched displays during the 22nd PAC, but "all I can reveal now is that the trade exhibit will highlight a lot of new gadgets and other game-changing ideas that the delegates will get a chance to see for the first time," Megre says.

For the BIMP awards, the creative committee is resolved to undertake new ideas. "This time, we shall embrace effectiveness full time," says committee chair Mirdee Jayme.

"We're seriously studying all the effectiveness ideas of international award shows and we'll have a new way of judging."

The media sector is really coming together to champion game changes in the industry. It is especially significant as new media, who have just recently become official members of the Adboard through BIMAP.

"BIMAP is quite excited to be one of the hosts of the ad congress," says BIMAP president and 22nd PAC vice chair Hans Rivera-Chua.

"The theme makes the importance of digital marketing even more pronounced. We are working hard to support Ms. Bonnie and the rest of the committees to deliver something different."

These are exciting times for the advertising industry. It is continually expanding in an ever-changing business climate, and because of this, opportunities for the industry are up for grabs.

Calling out to all game-changers: the launch of the 22nd PAC signals the start of the game. Be ready for action on November.

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Coming out swinging

Ad Industry Golfers Launch First Event of the 22nd Philippine Advertising Congress

UPMG OVER-ALL TEAM CHAMPION

By Ayo P. Ubalde

TURBULENT rains brought to the Riviera over the weekend could not delay the event. So the 1st Leg of the Golf Tournament of the 22nd Philippine Advertising Congress went as scheduled last Tuesday May 10 at the Eastridge Golf Club in Binangonan. A heavy sigh of relief greeted the advertising executives golfers making up to a solid Tuesday morning.

Being the first major sports activity of this year's Ad Congress, the Golf Tournament could be described as a launch pad of the biennial Adboard event.

Event co-host United Print Media Group (UPMG) topped all teams in 1st Leg Team Champion, followed by the tandem team of the Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (ASAP) and the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4As), as Team Runners-up.

From the Premier Team, Ernie Hernandez emerged the Low Gross Champion, while Imran Ibni Hassad from UPMG was Low Net Champion.

Special awards were given to Ani Sison of the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP) for Longest Drive, Eelin Perez of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas (KBP) for Most Accurate Driver, and to Doug Cadiao of OAAP for Nearest to the Pin.

Of course, there are the individual Shot Class Champions but include Shot Sista of UPMG for Class A, Michael Ong of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA) for Class B, and Edwin Hernandez, also of PANA, for Class C, and Robert Garcia of UPMG for Class D.

Mateo Villanueva, Team Captain of 4As was the Champion of the Ladies Division.

Other Champions are Ramon Chua Jr. of DMAP for the Seniors Division, and Carlo Carpio of PANA for the Guest Division.

The teams represented were the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies (4As) and the Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (ASAP), the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA) and the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP), the United Print Media Group (UPMG) and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas (KBP).

Media partners are Business Mirror, BusinessWorld, The Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Broadcasting Company, Progressive Broadcasting Company and Manson Broadcasting Company. Major sponsors are Philippine Daily Inquirer, Yakult, Topnotch and Energizer. Hole sponsor is Ang Iyanan while Hole in One sponsors include Ravi Plana, Pat Lim, Luneta Advertising and The Turf Company. Special thanks in the following for donating prod uct give-aways: Del Monte, Ayala Land, Cebu, UBC, Solar Publishing, PMO, Pinoy News, Pro Pyro, Pilipino Star Ngayon, Manilanes Times, Solar Publishing and Manila Standard. 6DS CBN is a sponsor for the 6th leg.

LIST OF WINNERS

Team Champion - UPMG
Team Runner-up - ASAP & 4As

Low Gross Champion
ERNIE HERNANDEZ - Founder
Low Net Champion -
ELIJAN BAYNOSOUAL - UPMG

SPECIAL AWARDS
Longest Drive - ANI SISON - OAAP
Most Accurate Driver - EELIN PEREZ - KBP
Nearest to the Pin - DOUG CADIAO - OAAP

MEN CLASS A
Champion - ERIC DATU - UPMG
1st Runner-Up - JUN SUAN - OAAP
2nd Runner-Up - MIKE SESIA - UPMG

MEN CLASS B
Champion - MICHAEL ONG - PANA
1st Runner-Up - RICKY ALEGRE - UPMG
2nd Runner-Up - JEO BERNANDEZ - 4As

MEN CLASS C
Champion - EDWIN HERNANDEZ - PANA
1st Runner-Up - RICARDO MORA - OAAP
2nd Runner-Up - ROMEO SALAS - OAAP

MEN CLASS D
Champion
ROBERT GARCIA - UPMG
1st Runner-Up
EDMUND TIBONG - ASAP
2nd Runner-Up
MARIO P. VILLANUEVA - ASAP

LADIES DIVISION
Champion - MATEO VILLANUEVA - 4As
Runner-Up - LORNA TABUENA - ASAP

SENIORS DIVISION
Champion - RAMON CHUA JR. - DMAP
1st Runner-Up - LOUIE RODRIGUEZ - 4As
2nd Runner-Up - ALEX BAUTISTA - UPMG

GUEST DIVISION
Champion - CARLO CARPIO - PANA
Runner-Up - MIKE SMITH - UPMG

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Lito Thelma Sison San Juan

LIFESTYLE Parenting

PAINT Pacquiao, his wife Jinkee and sons Jimuel and Michael at the front row of the GH Kids Show

Pacquiao the Dad enjoys his kids' fashion show

ON THE DAY he arrived from the US, from his triumphant bout with Shane Mosley, Manny Pacquiao and his family dropped by the SMX Convention Center to view the GH Kids Collection at Philippine Fashion Week.

The proud fist-pound champion was with wife Jinkee and sons Jimuel and Michael. Trying to keep an low key as possible, they enjoyed the sight of daughters Princess and Queenie walking the runway like seasoned models.

PACQUIAO 11

QUEENIE Pacquiao in denim smock dress with floral prints

PRINCESS Pacquiao in country trio-dress love-ing of denim and floral prints

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TUBE and self-portrait by the artist Jessi Bergson

ROWAN Rocks and Kieran Dhoore in front of their portrait by Jessi

JESSI Bergson with her works

Young visual artists on the rise

TALENTED YOUNG artist Jessi Antonio Bergson held her debut exhibit when the British School of Manila (BSM) showcased the talents of its grade-12 batch recently.

Like all other BSM happenings, the event was delightfully and expertly done. Hors ouevres, which made the exhibit less of a school event and something more special. Guests included Bong-Bong Marcos and lawyer Lisa Ignacia Marcos; Jocelyn Bergson, the artist's father; Jocelyn Milan, Malou de Guzman, Jean Lichauco and other close friends and relatives of the artist, paisanggan.

I spoke to Isabella Benitez, an 18-year-old British-Filipina. She said she's interested in portrait painting of the early 20th century's life added that her style is heavily influenced by Austrian painter Gustav Klimt.

Meanwhile, Susanna Rita Perez, 17, said her art is inspired by the traditional folk art of her native Peru. She does pop art, using bold colors.

Just to 18, "After being cured of obsessive-compulsive disorder," her teacher joked," Jessi developed work exploring sadness, such as undulating cloth, with a keen attention to detail."

She went on to develop portraits in a much looser style, working along the style of such artists as Jenny Saville and Lucian Freud, with thick brushstrokes and often shocking subjects.

Her art has an unprecedented style that is both unique and nearly perfect in every basic aspect of painting.

Needless to say, this year's BSM Visual Arts Exhibit was an unmatched success. It provided everyone an idea of the bright future of the school's young and talented students, siblings.

New face of Tattoo

Tattoo Broadband has made its mark and now, it has a sensational new face.

The new face was introduced by Nikka Arcasia, head of broadband business of Globe, in a gig at the ultra-modern Nanai Art Center. The new face is sleeker, better and faster, siblings. It's definitely up-the-alley of Internet aficionados.

"It's marked for greatness," said Dong Rosapollo, head for broadband and landline marketing of Globe.

With Tattoo Broadband, the choices are limitless, and guests were able to experience those through the laptops stations in the hall of fame.

Kit Guan, Tarah Gaugler vouched for Tattoo. "Staying connected in my fans through Facebook page is the best to do this," she said.

"Broadband brings my concerts and patrons about cosplay across the globe," said Cosplay goddess Abella Gostenglao.

Luis Magdana is brand ambassador. "I believe being a brand ambassador of Tattoo will gain me more exposure than will enable me to do my social advocacy to more people," she said.

Other people who paid tribute to Tattoo were pioneer tech blogger Rino Montero, gold, runner extraordinaire Rio-An Ta-Ytac, and talented rock band General Luna.

This list happening was hosted by gorgeous Jerry Mead and BJ Ledesma, siblings.

Hey paisanggan, check out the new Globe famous products and its services, by visiting http://tattoo.globe.com.ph/

Webber concert

The awesome success of "CATS Manila" last year was thanks to Cinemia Inc., Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, David Atkins Enterprises and All Seats Channels siblings.

Now this fantastic team is doing it again with the amazing productions of the "Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" 1000%, which will run for a strictly limited season of 13 stunning performances.

The musical will start its run June 24 at Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, Cultural Center of the Philippines.

ISABELLA Benitez's work

SUSANA Diaz-Perez with art teacher Richard Dreesman

"SUVARO" by Isabella Benitez with Alfredo Perdiera

THREE young members of the British School of Manila during their art show — Susana Diaz-Perez, Jocelin "Jessi" Bergson and Isabella Benitez

Andrew Lloyd Webber is renowned "as the master of musical theater, the founder of musicals and a theatrical force to be reckoned with." His musicals have been seen by hundreds of millions around the world, translated into dozens of languages and won every major major entertainment award.

More info? Do call Dinner C Catang, executive/sales officer Concerta, tel. 4098646, 8358670, 8917, 8331138, 0922-8331328, e-mail:dinner@concertamanila.com.

New Cinderella endorser

Young actress and model Rhian Ramos is the newest celebrity endorser Cinderella.

Wasting no rimmed grass asymmetrical dress from Seventeen, with an edgy undied butt, the actress looked every inch a fashion-plate, at the contract signing with Cinderella's CEO Arthur E. Conrad, marketing director Andrea G. de Manzanta, and group manager for imported brands Richie C. Santos.

Also at the contract signing were merchandising manager for local brands Marielle Santos-Pe and GMA Artist Center manager Ida Henares, siblings.

The signing is the latest achievement of Rhian. In 2006, Rhian had her debut in the TV series "Captain Barbell." She was followed by a string of roles in popular shows. For her film debut, "The Promise," she won the Golden Screen Award for Breakthrough Performance in 2007.

Rhian has also been a dance music album, "Sexiest Dance Hunks," under Universal Records.

No wonder Rhian herself embodies the Cinderella Gal: multitalented, excellent, always relevant and, in all instances, dressed to impress, siblings.

DUDE Tattoo brand ambassadors Abella Gostenglao, Tarah Magdana, Sarah Gaugler and Rico Rosapollo

CINDERELLA girl Rhian Ramos and group manager for imported brands Richie C. Santos

DIVA Hannah singing "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" from the Andrew Lloyd Webber hit "Evita"

HUGS of network broadband business for Globe Doug Rosapollo and Tattoo's COO James Lacson

CHIGGAY Jessie de la Merced and Rubire Carmona

PAL Magdana and son Bino Magdana

TATTOO@Home head Jorie Gamboa, "uro diva" Sarah Gaugler and head for broadband business for Globe Nikka Arcasia

SCENE OF Australia's best stage performers perform songs from 14 hit musicals by the legendary Andrew Lloyd Webber

Free photography workshop in malls

WWF-PHILIPPINES and Banco de Oro Unibank Inc. recently launched the first ATM donation program within the global network of World Wide Fund for Nature with WWF-Philippines trustee Elizabeth T. Ty; BDO president Nestor V. Tan; WWF-Philippines chair Vince Perez; BDO head for branch banking Jaime C. Ty; WWF-Philippines president Lory Tan. Until February 2012, BDO ATM cardholders who withdraw at any of BDO's 1,200 ATMs nationwide are introduced to the concept of "electronic microgiving." After each withdrawal transaction, a WWF screen will pop up on the screen asking if the cardholder would like to make a P5 donation. If the cardholder clicks yes to donate, the P5 will automatically be deducted from the amount. With at least 1,000 people withdrawing daily, the donations made through BDO ATMs will be ultimately funding four different WWF projects: the Bicool wholeheath watershed program; climate change environmental education program; watershed management program (Ilagan) and fisheries management program (Palawan). Visit www.wwf.org.ph.

What's Up

IMAGINE BRAND Canon is inviting free photography classes called Photobreaks for compact camera and camcorder users on 18 dates and schools across the country.

It covers basic and advanced photography, scrapbook-making and videography.

It will be held in SM Southmall and SM City Naga May 21-22; SM Megamall May 28-29; SM Mall of Asia June 4-5; Starmall-EDSA Extension June 11-12; Ayala Vertis North June 18-19; SM Manila and SM Pampanga June 25-26; and SM Clarkmall July 2-3.

Photobreaks lecturers will be Xenia Philippaios Gomez for Epiphany Imaging Incorporated; candid commercial photographer and lecturer Joshua Veteran; food photographer Mark Reyes; wedding photography specialist Paul Tuason; scrapbook artist Carmel Cayon; and events videographer Trey Mendoza.

Participants who bought a Canon compact camera from May 1-July 3 will be entitled to an exclusive photographic contest with a brand-new EOS 1100D DSLR camera as top prize and runner-up prizes to the 2011 Canon PhotoMarathon.

Participants can also avail of free photo printing and camera cleaning. Onlookers can view the printed works of participants through an interactive wall display.

Limited slots per class. Public participants only need to bring their Canon cameras and valid IDs on the day of the workshop.

Canon camera users who are interested to join can visit www.facebook.com/canonphilippines to register.

Smart storytelling contest

Life Made Extraordinary storytelling contest is ongoing for all Smart subscribers until June 30, answer the question "How has any Smart service or innovation changed your life?"

Stories may be submitted in any format, through the following channels: email, short.smart.com.ph/contest; any other voice or text format; participating radio stations; drop boxes in any Smart store near you and Smart Extraordinary Lives booths in upcoming events.

Users may submit as many different stories. All materials will be reviewed before posting on the website. Any story that contains lewd, obscene, pornographic or offensive material will be disqualified.

One story will be featured on leading newsboards and tarpaulin nationwide.

Winners will get P100,000 for first place, P50,000 second and P30,000, third.

Starting July 1, the microsite is open for visitors' votes for their favorite story. Registered user's most log wins vote. The entry with the most votes will win People's Choice award and get P10,000 cash.

Winning stories may be featured in print or full in Smart's new TV commercial.

Tablao Flamenco show

Tablao Flamenco will have a show May 21, 8 p.m., in its studio in Makati featuring flamenco artist Clara Reinoso and company dancers Mercedes de Guzman and Alexandra Tyler. Following presentation is flamenco workshop, those will also be student performances by choreographer new choreography.

Tickets at P650 inclusive of snack of paella, empanada, Spanish tortilla and sangria. Discounts will be given to students, senior citizens and groups of 10 or more.

Early-morning shows will be on June 4 and 25.

Tablao Flamenco is at 2nd F Burgos cor. Guerrero Sts., Barangay Poblacion, Makati. Call (632) 897-5472, 894-4746/7292 or e-mail info@clarareinoso.com; www.clarareinoso.com.

Modern circus in RCBC

"Mobile: A Modern Circus Performance" by the French company "Chabuts d'Entez" will be in RCBC Plaza, Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium May 19, 8 p.m.

Ticket prices are P400, P550 and P700.

Chabuts d'Entez will be in Iloilo Cartes Cebu May 21, organized by Alliance Française de Cebu. Call (032) 520-1135, 0917-3025602 or (032) 520-1135, e-mail cebu@alliance.ph or info@alliance.ph; or call RCBC Plaza at (02) 884-2000.

"Mobile" is a French Pro-event organized by Alliance Française de Manila and the Embassy of France in the Philippines.

Math and English programs for kids

THE GALILEO Enrichment Learning Program is building math and English lessons for children.

Established in 2004, it was created by a group of educators who saw the need to reinforce school-based learning in today's globally competitive environment.

Children are taught mathematics as a form of:

Problem-solving—The ability to apply mathematical skills confidently and meaningfully to scientific situations.

Communication—Reading, writing, modeling, doing and discussing are important tools in helping children explore, convey and clarify mathematical concepts and ideas.

Reasoning—Giving children opportunities to analyze, draw conclusions and justify their thinking helps them gain self-reliance and confidence in their mathematical abilities and helps them see that math makes sense.

Connection—Helping children see how concepts and ideas in one area of math relate to other areas of math, other subject areas, and their everyday lives fosters an appreciation of the usefulness of mathematics.

English lessons show children:

GALILEO programs address the different learning pace and style of each child, and the need for an encouraging and positive learning environment.

- Language use is an active process of constructing meaning.
- Language is used in increasingly complex ways.
- Reading comprehension is a way to develop grammatical and analytical skills.
- Language is used in a social context.
- Language and literacy is multidimensional.

Galileo learning centers are all over Metro Manila.

For branches and schedules, call (02) 526-1226, 895-8093, 2455808, e-mail info@galileo-enrichment.com; visit www.galileoenrichment.multiply.com; or galileoenrichment of Facebook.

QUEENIE and Princess Pacquiao at the finale of SM Kids Fashion Show in Philippine Fashion Week

Pacquiao the Dad . . .

From page C1

Held last Saturday, the show featured the SM Kids Country Couture collection. Country-inspired denims, boonie shades, big sombrero in the rugged hat Denim + Denim, cell and romantic blues and blooms, and the army and wines in Camo-try Mix, which layer denim pieces with shades and floral prints. The collection is available at the Children's Wear Department of all SM stores.

The audience was charmed by the kids, who worked the catwalk like little supermodels. This was the second appearance of Princess and the first for Queenie in the SM Kids show.

'Tiger Mother' is actually tame

If you're expecting to be shocked, you'll be disappointed. Amy Chua's controversial book chronicles her fanatical quest to turn her daughters into accomplished musicians

By Pam Pastor

AMY CHUA wasn't lying.

The Wall Street Journal really did string together her book's most shocking parts, resulting in a worldwide controversy about China's extreme parenting style.

That article, which was given the title "Why Chinese mothers are superior," spawned even more articles, features, blog posts, comments and even death threats made against Chua, a law professor at Yale and the daughter of Chinese immigrant parents who had opted a drink of their lives living in the Philippines.

The controversy may have died down but the spotlight remains on Chua. Time recently included her on its list of 100 most influential people of 2011 and the magazine's cover included photos of her posing with one tigers in her daughter Lulu's bedroom.

"Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" finally hit our book store shelves and readers may be surprised to realize that the rest of the book is actually pretty tame—screaming matches notwithstanding.

It cannot be denied... Chua can be high strung, obsessive and manipulative, but she also isn't the monster people who had not even picked up the book were making her out to be. But this doesn't mean she's a model parent either.

Memoir

Not one to be able to appreciate Chua's book, one must remember that it was written as a memoir and not a how-to. It is not a manual for parenting—it is the story of one mother's journey with her two very different daughters and her overzealous attempt at helping them attain perfection.

The book devotes most of its pages to Chua's desire for her daughters Sophia and Lulu, to become accomplished musicians, forcing them to practice playing the piano and violin for hours and hours every day, even during family reunions, signing them up with renowned teachers without asking for their opinion and threatening to take away possessions and privileges when they refused to give their musical instruments as much dedication as their mother demanded.

"Battle Hymn" is an easy read—you can zip through it in one night (if you don't stop too many times to roll your eyes at Chua's propensity for stereotypes and making sweeping generalizations). And, even if you don't agree with Chua's motherhood techniques, you might still find it entertaining for a lot of parents, it is the difference between them and Chua that made the book such a riveting read.

In the end, you will walk away not with admiration for Chua's parenting skills—but with the realization that parents have a lot to learn from their children.

Chua has mentioned in the book that she had to take out a lot of the parts she had originally written about her husband Jed Rubenfeld, also a Yale law professor and author. Right now he's talking to Gawker but you never know—maybe one day he'll decide to write his version of his family's story. More than's a book we'd like to read.

"Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" is now available at National Book Store.

Identity thieves targeting children

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

Delayed payment

Parents with credit cards who are buying supplies and other things their children will need for school opening may want to avail of special installment options offered by several large department store chains. Most establishments will allow you to pay for a minimum of P5,000 in credit card purchases in three equal installments. Up to six months is also available in some stores.

The Robinsons chain offers an even better deal. For a minimum of only P5,000 credit card purchases, you can pay up to six months at zero-percent interest. By opting for installments, Howard's Storage, has a similar offer. You can get stuff to help you organize your children's things so they would not have to turn the house upside down looking for what they need.

By the time a new semester or school year opens, you will have finished paying for your purchases and ready to start all over again. You can save your cash for more urgent expenses.

Receipt-issuing taxi meters

Taxi companies may have to find some other supplier of meters that issue receipts. Only eight work, at least two or three meters of under 1 take malfunction and are unable to issue receipts. Erroneous collection is a common "ailment" of the new meters. Of course, it could also be because drivers have not been properly trained to the operation of these meters.

Whatever the reason and given the significant increase in fare, taxi operators owe it to customers to make sure the meters are working or are operated properly so people get receipts. And they should instruct drivers to issue receipts without being asked.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 10th Floor, Media Center, Chino Roces Ave. ext. Mauricio and Bgrio Sts., 1204 Makati City; fax 897-8753/896-6214; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

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For Dr. Aivee Teo, luxe is comfort, and vice versa

THE reception of the clinic evokes a Parisian vibe—high ceiling, grand architectural details and large windows. The decorating style encompasses baroque, rococo and neoclassic. NELLO HERNANDEZ

Celebrity dermatologist shows how her clinic and condominium home echo her style that's grand yet stress-free

By Margie C. Enriquez
Lifestyle Reporter

IF YOU'RE not here, then you're not in the jet. That's the social barometer," declares style maven Leo Espinosa on being on the list of celebrity dermatologist Aivee Aguilar-Teo.

Aside from maintaining the fresh, youthful faces of Manila society, Aguilar-Teo is prominent because of her pedigree. She's from the political family of the Aguilars in Las Piñas. An old family friend, Espinosa decorated the Skin and Laser Clinic at The Fort and the Teo condo in a style befitting their names and privileged background.

Espinosa, incidentally, looks much younger these days—no jowls or droopy eyelids and a 32-inch waistline, thanks to Teo's non-invasive procedures.

Espinosa says the takeoff is Parisian, which encompasses many periods in one space—baroque, rococo, neoclassical, art Deco and contemporary.

Still, the "French style" adopts a light-hearted attitude towards the past. The clinic and the home exude opulence and elegance, with hints of metallic finish, wood veneers, custom furnishing and rich fabrics.

Strong shapes

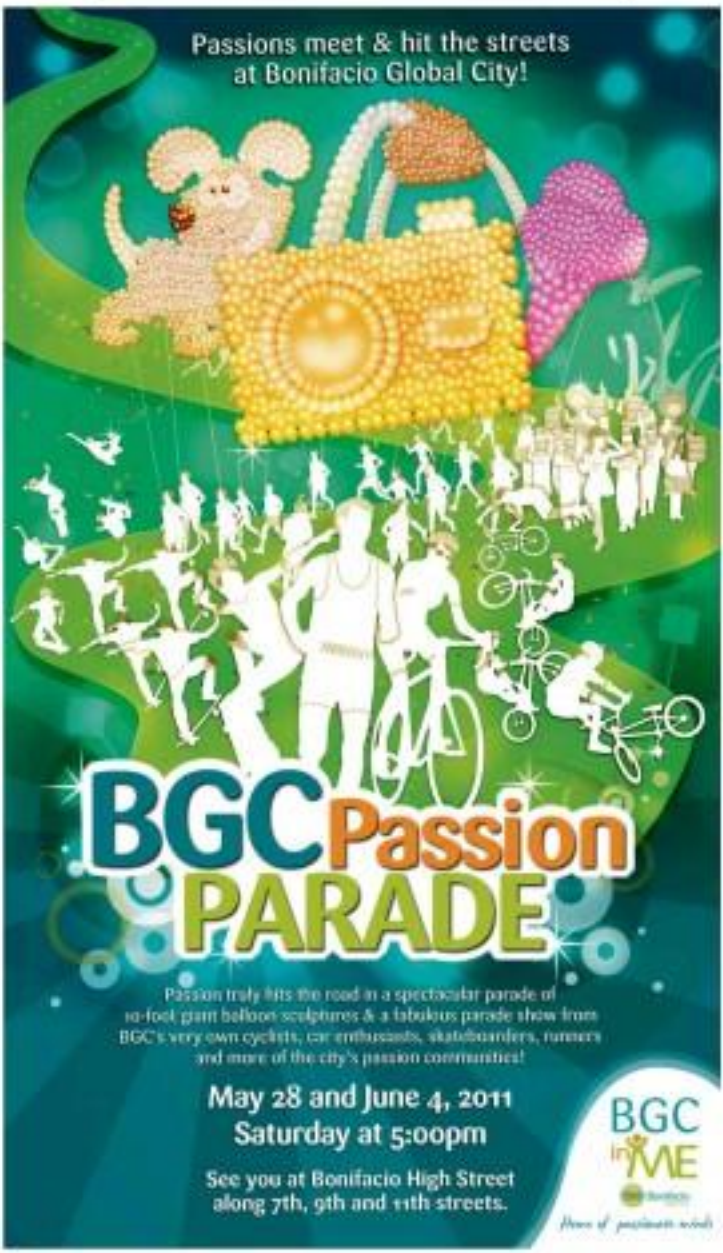
The rooms are neutral—most bing grayish and brownish tones—and accented with black, gilt touches. The furniture is masterly carved.

Espinosa endows the matching functional look, and curved cryanes a companion set of strong shapes. Ultimately, there's drama and humor in the interiors, appropriate for Teo's famous clients, called "Skin Leaguers," such as Ben Chan, Hayet Calayag, Nancy Ortiz.

"Her idea is lots. The clinic is French lots, while our home is modern luxe because we are a young couple," says Aguilar-Teo, 43, who is considered to be one percent aesthetic surgeon P. Shen Yee, 56.

The boyish P. Shen studied at the University of Glasgow and had planned to work in Scotland. In 2001, while vacationing in Singapore, he met Aivee on her first day of postgraduate studies at the National Skin Center. Smitten with the Filipina, P. Shen extended his stay on the grounds of "family emergency."

When she came home to practice, they carried on a long-distance romance. He



For Dr. Aivee Teo, luxe is comfort, and vice versa

From page D1

would fly from Scotland just to be with her. But the long trips and jetlag were too much for her.

She returned to Singapore to train at the National University Hospital. They were married in Singapore in 2011. Today, the Teos shuttle between Singapore and Manila, and "there has been no medical facility/medical destination. They used to live in Alabang, but since traffic was too taxing for Aguilar Teo's second pregnancy, they moved to a condominium closer to her work.

The clinic has some traditional elements such as fancy sconces, moldings, crystal lamps, flowing drapery with matching valances, gilded cornices, and elaborately grained upholstery in bronzes and velvets. The chandeliers and door handles bear Teo's scripted initials. Clients order meals from a nearby restaurant while undergoing a procedure.

On Tuesday, the ladies who lunch ordered shawarma meal at the dining table while they are getting ID-zapped with their youth shots.

"In the Philippines, the clinic makes you feel sick. Clinics in Singapore have that luxe feel so patients feel more comfortable. It's a whole package. We want to raise the standards of medical surgical and surgical care," says Aguilar Teo.

The Teo residence has the same feel, except that the furniture shapes are more irregular.

"We wanted a serene, love place. Low-maintenance, everything," she says. The condo is near the medical center, Zen 2.0, and accessible to the airport for their frequent trips.

DOCTOR: Aivee and Aguilar Teo

JUST of necessity is infused in the French glass desk with chromed hardware next to the dining chairs. The gilded modern mirror serves as a focal point.

"The house has to be hassle free for us. We just come in and out and look up," explains Dr. Teo.

Sense of movement

The living room is adorned with chenille upholstered furniture, tufted chairs, and tasseled and fringed pillows. A patterned carpet breaks the monotony of solid neutral colors and adds a sense of movement. The rounded glass coffee table, a cubical side table, and Bobby Berk's gateleg give the place a youthful look.

If there's personal space in the den, "I wanted it to be a bit darker and comfy. I want to watch war and gore movies here.

THE doctor's office isn't an exception with a step back in time. Furniture and accessories are also a look of period elegance.

All the rest is with the Teos remain in navel.

Less Explosive

Replacements using the gra dresses and the

Unusual wall greater the wall clinic and wa gift because wh private addition

Leaders Ter the look of gla unpredictable hardwood ru colonial cabi chandeliers a brilliance of the

Base the cli largely Teos wealth, inno work, and 'ka story. However receiving up o sum. In the w with moved Aguilar Teo's

Global firm redesigns Festival Supermall around nature

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, the 21-hectare shopping complex in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, receives the only award-winning global architecture/planning design from ETEL for a major expansion. This is set to fortify its position as the retail and recreation center mecca of Metro Manila.

ETEL is a British-origin retail architecture such as The Venetian in Macau, the Bahrain City Centre, the Mall of City Centre in Dubai, Charlestown Wine Mall and Charlestown Plaza in Melbourne, Australia, and the Westfield San Francisco Centre in California.

The firm designed Festival Supermall in the '90s. The mall's expansion plan begins in the last quarter of 2011.

"Retail is like nature, you need to breathe new life into it every 10 years or so," says Norman Cantlie, AIA, executive vice president of ETEL. "Competition will always force you to reinvent so you can offer something fresh and new to the consumers."

Nature

The four-story Festival Supermall, with over 1,100 stores to shop and food outlets, draws an average foot traffic of 300,000 a day. With a family entertainment concept, Festival Supermall has an entertainment area as anchor for each floor: the Festival Junction Train, the Grand Carousel, Mini Forest Infinite Science park, Z-Site interactive center and a 12-theater stadium cineplex.

With the mall expansion, ETEL shifts an already lean entertainment district to the area's most prominent natural feature: the Alabang Creek, which runs through the complex.

"Now that consumer lifestyle has evolved, we are expanding Festival Supermall to an indoor-outdoor experience that capitalizes on the assets of the creek," reveals Cantlie.

The expansion mall will add three districts: the Festival Walk, the River Park and the Water Gardens.

Festival Walk, the main connection to the transit hub, will be a walkway of grade and go blocks, with state of the art light features, paving details and painted landscape.

The River Park will be built on the Alabang Creek shoreline to accommodate boating activities. An amphitheater area will be developed for open air events.

The Water Gardens will have outdoor plazas with gardens, cascading water gardens and fountains, al fresco dining, and a three-story mall. "An existing acacia tree will be preserved, becoming an iconic focal

FESTIVAL Supermall's natural/climate indoor amusement park

mark with its impressive size, as it towers above the river and over the buildings, as naturally decisive will be a destination on to itself," Cantlie explained.

The expansion mall will also incorporate training architecture spaces in the area. A smaller 4 km old CEIT research facility will be restored as part of the mall. The building has an Ecco façade. An old station, a replica of José Rizal's sculpture "The Triumph of Science over Death," is in the courtyard, to be incorporated in ETEL's design.

Sustainable

The expansion follows the trend to sustainable design. Cantlie points out that three and soon, Filinvest Corporate City (FCC) has also always been a master-planned development.

"Filinvest has always been committed to preserving the natural resources in the area, hence the new structures are more of a soft entry into the land, sliding right into and the creeks allowed, "Cantlie says.

Because the Alabang Creek is a crucial element in the design, Filinvest is looking into interventions for the water in preparation for the expansion development, as well as the installation of a monitoring system for the water levels.

"The design takes into account extreme

'Retail is like th to breathe n every 10

NEO Wanalong, principal and head of marketing events at Squarmall City and Country of Filinvest Alabang

WELLNESS AT THE WEST:
Bioessence launches a bigger branch on West Avenue Quezon City

AMBIANCE on the classic scheme to light up the home...matching glass cabinetry

2nd SHOW: Tan's private space

...tone," he says. In keeping ...h aesthetic, the leather ...ecoffee table.

...'s design formula

...ware his design motive is ev... from look of the 'fro end. ...

...t takes courage to marry ...ent of furniture pieces. In the ...h, Lorge mixes new with ornate ...ually enlarge the rooms and ...ial windows.

...ware that reflect light create ...ous. Espinosa adds decor to ...rooms, such as sending the ...ble flooring and designing ...ntry. In the clinic, crystal ...al décor and emphasize the ...ceiling.

...with the times. The clinic is ...h inspired, replete with ...l legs, concentrate wood ...ontrast prints on the upholst... elements such as a glass ...modern tufted ottomans add ...mic, the French side table ...h legs, an herbivore from ...wolves, injects a sense of his...

very in the living room, as does a black basalt with gilt trimmings amid the leather furniture in the den.

Metallic tones create a congenial atmosphere. Where light strikes gold or silver-leafed surfaces, materials is rendered. In places were a lot of gilt leaves and metallic wires in the furniture.

Decorative with drapery. In the clinic, flowing drapery in fine prints emphasize the high ceiling. In the residence, silvery voiles silk drapes add romance. Velvet drapes serve as partitions in the den of mediavestigeous, J." Shaw Tee. The dark red wall set an old tapestry.

Infuse global touches. Elements assigned abroad suggest something out of the ordinary. There could be a Persian rug, whose fine patterns and muted colors are in harmony with the patterns of furniture in Spanish Revivalfloor.

Make it inviting. Dress cushions of silk, velvet and brocade with fringed edges and tufted furniture to elevate spiff glamour.

To the Tees, the decor isn't about extravagance, but about the art of making life very comfortable. Ultimately, Spanish Revival takes what others love to work in starting late time and resources with the ballgrat patients of Las Piñas Hospital. Her schedule with them is never compromised. That unconditional service comes back in blessings.

THE NEW Pardeal Supermall in Bacoor serves as its main design anchor.

...eater–you need ...ew life into it ...years or so'

...STEL's Rene Nagal, group ...and middle of Pardeal ...Romero, managing director

...ndoll and flooding conditions, even proving the water level for 10 years," ...ares Santos.

STEL also incorporates design solutions that maximize sunlight, ventilation, and flooding.

"The buildings are oriented in such a way that they obtain maximum daylight," says STEL principal Rafel Mendoza, a PS. Spices are drawn in the project. "We are using elevation instead of skylights as the lessened light comes in while preventing direct heat gain."

Creating an interplay of outdoor activities, Pilarcon has devoted 1.5 hectares to park space that transitions readily from day time to night time use.

"Landscaping will be naturalized, using drawn the existing greenery and retaining trees, grasses and heavy drifts of plant materials. The look is outdoorsy but not manicured."

Mandating adds, "Trellis devices and canopies will also be set up across the outdoor areas as protection from the sun, dust rain and heavy rains."

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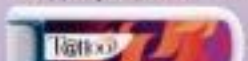
Dionne Lee with the Tattoo MyFi

Vivian Basa with her Tattoo MyFi

PIA Magalona

The new Tattoo stands for individualism and self-expression represented by select couplesset all geared up for the event



The popular Tattoo USB Stick

Bumble.com sensation Sarah Magalona

T@ttoo

The New Face of Broadband

Tattoo MyFi – your personal WiFi hotspot

The Tattoo Supersticks – the most powerful broadband stick

Hosts of the evening (to beautiful Joey Mead and man's man RJ Ledesma

The Globe-powered Tattoo brand just gets better with age. Launched in year 2008, Tattoo has continued to make its mark in the everyday lifestyle of those whose online life and real life collide in their ever-try fast and furious Internet access. With its full portfolio of internet-based offers and high-tech gadgets, Tattoo has evolved into the most preferred broadband brand for the youth generation. This year, Tattoo presents more missions to those who can't bear to be offline.

With the modern Ronac Art Center as the backdrop, Nikko Acosta, the Head of Globe's Consumer Broadband Business, talked about the immense growth seen in the broadband business over recent years, with double-digit growth from Tattoo as the brand reached the 1 Million subscriber mark some months back. "The topic of 4G was not far from users' minds, and Acosta put their questions to rest by telling all about the Globe 4G service already available this the country's 1st and largest 4G WiMax network for broadband users and also this Globe 4GPh-r for mobile-class users.

Dong Ronquillo, the Head of the Nomadic Broadband Business, introduced the new Tattoo in a rich array of broadband products that are sleeker, better and faster than ever before. From the powerful Tattoo Supersticks and Tattoo MyFi to the high-performing Tattoo USB, and Tattoo Tokpak, the choices for Tattoo users are limitless. Guests got the full Tattoo experience by using Tattoo-powered laptops set up in the Ronac Art Center Playground, taking photos of the customized side players warming, and getting their own virtually-tattooed photos.

In less than seven years, Tattoo has blazed a trail through cyberspace and made a name for itself as the authentic brand in broadband. And what better way to reconnect the new and improved Tattoo out through the young Filipinos who have made names for themselves online and offline. Dong Ronquillo describes the new faces of Tattoo as being "marked for greatness", with each one's penchant to share the best of them with their growing following. The new Tattoo ambassadors were then unveiled. Art lover Sarah Geuggar, cosplay goddess Alodia Gosiengfiao, pioneer tech blogger Noy Mosesgold, and to everyone's delight and surprise, the hunk-tervention sensation and teen showbiz heiress Bada Magalona. Also included in Tattoo's roster of ambassadors are runner-up Binibining Pilipinas-Chi Cia Le Cruz and talented rocker band, General Luna.

Revealing who she is as an artist and as a person is the main goal of Sarah Geuggar, and staying connected to her fans through Facebook pages is the best way to do this. Sarah discussed Tattoo's pros and cons and happy to win the series of the Tattoo ambassadors because Tattoo gives her the opportunity to share more of her unique point of view through her skin art and her fans are excited for the fresh looking brand Tattoo Gals.

A shower and shaker in the celebrity world with a real fantasy-following, Alodia Gosiengfiao loves how Tattoo lets her showcase her creativity and passion for role-playing to her followers here and even abroad. She happily recounted, "I joined the Tattoo family because I can always count on Tattoo to help me share my love of cosplay with more people from all over."

A reliable, stable internet connection is what tech reporter/blogger Noy Mosesgold needs to cater to around his views and reviews of gadgets, services and all things techie. On his blog techmogra.ph, Noy shared that he is a long-time Globe user and did not hesitate to join the Tattoo tribe. "Tattoo always has the technology I need to make my blogging faster and easier. It's crucial for me to get the word out as fast as I can, from wherever I am, and Tattoo helps me do that," Though Tattoo, Pilot can update the blog constantly, even when he's on the move, and his consistent readers can get their daily fix of technologra.ph.

With her angsty teen days behind her, Sash Magdalena is now one to watch on popular blogsite fuvitoh.com. Sash sees her blog as a way to interact with people her age and encourage them to support events, causes. She belongs to a true-blue Globe family, with just about all of them being longtime Globe and Tattoo subscribers, so she knows she will feel good hands with Tattoo. Sash shares "I'm really happy to be with Tattoo because I believe this will help me do fun and personal for important causes that I want to share with more people."

Young, dynamic and high-performing are all qualities that Pia Dela Cruz, the sought-after running coach and mainstream student with Tattoo. Being on the go but still connected is his motto and what Pia's life is all about and Tattoo makes it all possible for him.

General Luna, an all-girl rock band, is taking the local music scene by storm with their head-shaking sound and smoldering look. As new ambassadors of Tattoo, they can share every step of their climb to the top with their fan base and an ever-growing audience.

The event was hosted by the beautiful Joey Mead and man's man RJ Ledesma, who welcomed guests like Dionne Lee, Vivian Basa, Pia Magalona, Megan Young, Cecile Zamora-Nar Sladen, Rico Laurel, Tattoo apparel designer Rhed Lara, and winners of the evening's Tattoo box awards Anna Zamora and Daniel Nacua of Pinoyaa.

They made their choices from Tattoo's new lineup of smart mobility, choose from Tattoo Sticks, Tattoo MyFi or the Tattoo Supersticks. If you prefer speed, take a Tattoo@Home plan like a 5Mbps Tattoo WiMax, a 3Mbps Tattoo DSL or the blazingly fast 100Mbps Tattoo Torque.

Tattoo Broadband has reached new heights and shows no signs of stopping. Whatever you need, Tattoo has it. The only question left is, which Tattoo will you choose?

To know more about how new Tattoo products and services, visit http://globe.com.ph/

Globe Head of Broadband Business Nikko Acosta explains the breakthrough technology behind the new Tattoo

Globe Head of Nomadic Broadband Business Dong Ronquillo and Smutch CDO James Lovidn

Guests were able to try Globe's latest services as the modern Ronac Center became a hub for the brand's new products

Cosplay goddess Alodia Gosiengfiao

Right to left: Nikko Acosta, Globe Head of Nomadic Broadband Business Dong Ronquillo and fellow Apparel Designer Rhed Lara

Pioneer tech blogger and new Tattoo brand ambassador Noy Mosesgold with the Tattoo Supersticks

Globe Tattoo also awarded the Tattoo prizes per batch to guests Daniel Nacua and Ana Zamora who came in with their own Tattoo accessories, both were lucky with a 1-year subscription of Globe Tattoo

Megan Young and Globe's Clare Lagana

Ana meets Daniel Dingler

Nina Magalona representing herself as Globe Tattoo's double-stuff

My brief love affair with a condominium unit

The restrictions bring about a change in lifestyle... It means keeping the house in order, not for oneself alone, but also in kind consideration of all the other dwellers

Text and illustration by Celine G. Barrameda
Lifestyle

I RECENTLY discovered that condo-living was a far cry from the picture-perfect lifestyle featured in glossy magazines.

A few months ago, I moved with my two sons into this high-rise building in the heart of Information Technology Land in Metro Manila. The experience was new to me, having lived all my life in the family compound in an old residential neighborhood in the city.

A week before the move, my son took me on an ocular visit so he could see the details of our assistant with the unit owners. We were moving in as tenants on a relatively short-term assistant while my son waited for a build-to-own condominium nearby to get ready for occupancy.

The panoramic view of the city sprawled before me from the bedroom window of this condo unit at the 10th floor. My eyes could span the view of Manila, Santa Mesa, and San Juan to the left, on to Mandaluyong and parts of Quezon City to the right. At the far horizon, at the easement garden framed by the complex of buildings under the same management, one could see the cityscape of Makati and Taguig. These fantastic views topped my list of the particular condo's selling points, given that the swimming pool on the small gym on the second floor.

The easement garden was where I would spend 30 minutes or so whenever I could, to soak in the early morning sun and do a short daily contemplation. Most days, when the weather was good, I simply marvelled at the vast sky above me and gazed at the high-rise buildings. For this lovely garden alone, I could stay here forever.

Or so I thought. After a few months, somehow the air had changed. Basic factor that I suspect came from the construction activities the garden made it intolerable to stay even for 30 minutes.

Logo toys

The panoramic views also came with the sight of men working at the construction sites. As exactly 7 a.m., a group ushers in a 6 things to me. The construction workers in order could 7 chairs file in a neat line when the gong sounds. Then a man gestures with a megaphone. From the 10th floor kitchen window, they look like the little Lego toys my sons used to play with. Were the workers arriving their marching orders for the day? It sometimes looked as if they were in prayer (still) in the nun with the megaphone. Whatever it was, I am fascinated with the unusual display of discipline.

If there is constant noise from the hustle and bustle out in the streets, it is, however, total silence inside the condo unit. Our landlady claims that in her two years in this condo, she had never even met her neighbors, much less trooped into them at the elevator or the hallways. That is not exactly my experience, although I must conclude that condo users do tend to keep to themselves. At the service elevator leading to the penthouse, it is always the housekeeping I bump into.

Then again, it isn't strange that the corridors are almost always empty, considering the habits and lifestyles of people who decide to live in a condo. Where I am staying, the demographics are made up mostly of IT professionals and call-center agents who work the graveyard shift. These people are dead to the world at sunrise, until their shifts begin at late afternoon or sundown.

At the elevator I have also come across some foreigners, mostly Koreans. Then there is a smattering of families with young children, as evidenced from a notice from management after New Year's Day about the racket from the youngsters. Me weren't bothered at all, thank God for those soundproof walls.

There families are the ones who have the housemaids reaching to the penthouse to access a drying area for the city and provincial conveniences for me as it is an overkill. In the penthouses in this condominium building, there are only 16 drying cages to service the 38 units on each of the 20 floors. You do the math.

Among the condominium brochures that have piled up at my desk, there is one that lists a drying area among its amenities. I thought the drying area was a given for condominium builders and architects. Times when has the drying area become more of a luxury than a necessary provision?

A plus here at this condominium where I am staying is that management and security are commendably efficient, except maybe for the billing system, which the staff can never seem to get right. Our power and water changes are always mixed up along with the association dues that the unit owners has agreed to pay under our contract.

No suspicious characters

The association dues are charged monthly on top of power and water consumption

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Discovering the World

Travelling is learning

Kuala Kubu Baru, Malaysia

Exploring new places teaches visitors a thing or two about life

Text and photos by Kenneth M. del Rosario

MANY times, it takes stepping out of your home and into a foreign land that broadens one's perspective—not just about what's out there to see but, more importantly, what it is you have back home that enables it to truly be going back to.

Having had the chance to travel to several countries, I always make sure I come home not only with pretty pictures but with life lessons that make every trip all the more memorable. I observe, analyze, try and question things whenever I'm in a new place which, in turn, allows me to learn a thing or two that I never would have had I missed the opportunity to travel.

Every trip is an adventure, especially if you're going to a place where your mother tongue is of no use, where the food you like isn't always readily available, where loved ones and family are miles away. We're nevertheless faced with all these and more that make the journey the learning experiences more pronounced and exciting.

There are a million and one stories I would share to friends and loved ones every time I go home—but to narrate one some of the more memorable realizations I've arrived at after spending time in hotel rooms plane rides away from home:

Times Square, New York

1. Filipinos really are everywhere

Among the countries I've been to (America, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia), fellow countrymen abound some as fellow tourists, others as overseas workers. When I was in New York, I chanced upon a staffer at a McDonald's in Manhattan; there were a Filipino who cleft at a restaurant in the San Francisco airport; a Filipino store assistant in a shopping mall in Singapore. What's funny is how easy it is to strike up a conversation with fellow Pinoys on foreign ground; how extra kind we are to each other.

2. Jollibee tastes so much better abroad

I never set much a Jollibee here in the country. But once I get to Las Vegas and see a Jollibee there, I felt the urge to get a piece of Chicken Joy. Perhaps I was curious at how the taste would be like. Regardless of the taste, there's some sense of belonging when presenting a Filipino outward or even more so a different country I get this same feeling when I see a find Jollibee in New York City. Filipinos assuming the share, of course) that I just had to give into.

3. Some things still cannot be free

Here in the Philippines, it's common for restaurants to serve free service or cup water to customers. The same goes for some papers, which are usually available in the table. But when I was in Mendham's mall, my Singaporean friends would bring their own tissue papers whenever we eat at hawker centers because the food stalls there don't give out tissue napkins for free. On the other hand, while I was in Hong Kong, I had to practically ask politely for restaurant staffers to serve me cold water (they serve it hot or not at all). Nothing wrong with manic water, in fact others prefer it. I'm not one of those people.

4. Majority of tourists are nice to each other

Unless you have a tripod with you, getting a group shot with everyone in the picture can be a challenge (for reasons one has to take the photo). But during my trips, especially in the US, it's common to have fellow tourists offer their help at snapping photos (so the whole group can be in the shot). In these little exchange of pleasantries that can lead to acquaintances among tourists. Me going on an unplanned destination or doing an activity that is much more fun as do-able fellow tourists such as getting into an extreme ride. First time I was in Singapore, I befriended locals who eventually became friends of mine to the point that I stay at their place whenever I'm in the city and vice versa.

5. It has become easier to spend more

This probably does not apply to everyone. But I've found it easier to part ways with my money when I get back home. Aside from a trip abroad, I've had to blame the currency rate for this. What happens is, when I see an item here in the Philippines which cost P500 (which normally would be expensive for a particular item, for example), I'd tell myself it only costs about $8 to the US (which would be cheap in that US standard) so it's supposed to be a good buy. But my spending spree comes back to normal after a while, when I stop converting currencies consciously in my head.

180-meter Zipline boosts Banna tourism

A 180-meter zipline has given the relatively quiet town of Banna in Ilocos Norte a tourism attraction unlike any of its neighboring towns in the province north of Manila.

The "Banna Zipline Adventure" is the first of its kind in the province of Ilocos Norte. A 30-40 minute drive from Laoag City, the new attraction is part of the 300 hectare of forested area in Barangay Cardinglik found by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to the administration of the town's develop.

It takes about 30 seconds to reach the opposite side of the zipline.

"This is just the first phase. We'll turn this eco-park into something that would attract people and bring them closer to nature. We'll develop it one phase at a time," said Ilan Ilagan Cart.

Unsurprised by some 50 feet from the ground, with a 30-degree slope, just about everyone can try the new attraction. The local official assured there has been no accidents since they opened mid-of 2010.

According to Abadilla, a longer zipline will be constructed soon (300 meters long), as well as facilities for rappelling and other exciting outdoor adventures including nature trails for trekking, bike trails, and botanical gardens.

"Of all towns in Ilocos Norte, we're the only town that doesn't have old churches so we have to create our own tourist attractions," the vice mayor said. The local government expects to develop the eco-park within 5 years.

Because the project is not at all profit-oriented, one go at the zipline only cost P50, unlike other ones that cost as high as P350 per try. Abadilla said there are about 50 to 70 people that visit on a daily basis, but that number could swell to up to 300 on the holidays.

With a population of 16,800, Abadilla hopes the eco-park will spur economic activity in the municipality.

Seeing Sagada for yourself

MUCH has been written about how beautiful a place Sagada is. Yet, words do not come easily when it's you who experiences the mystique first hand.

To some, Sagada is that kind of peaceful retreat that allows for a restful vacation, where one can just read a book and take in the fresh air. For others, it's that place where natural wonders seem to have settled when God asked them to choose a place to stay put in.

There's nothing quite like visiting and viewing the Hanging Coffins, the burial caves, the Echo Valley and the Sumaguing Cave. For people who love spelunking, exploring the cave's tricky paths and dark tunnels is a fantastic adventure.

As if the beauty of Sagada isn't yet enough of a come on for tourists, the place's local food offering is an event of their own. There are freshly made yogurt, fruits and vegetables that look from the farms and lots of homemade and fat-packed cuisines in the menu of Sagada's restaurants.

The hotels Sagada Tour includes three days and two nights' stay, purely between persons, inclusive of breakfast and overnight stay in St. Joseph Inn Hotel.

Hanging Coffins of Sagada

Hanan Sagada, private transportation (Sagada-Sagada Baguio), and a local Department of Tourism-accredited tour guide. The package takes tourists to the Bomod-ok falls, the Hanging Coffins, and Echo Valley.

Unfortunately for travelers who want to experience the Sagada adventure, Mountain Inquirer has come up with two packages that offer guests your options that allow them to explore the beauty of the place in a way that is both meaningful and exciting.

Mirrored Sagada, with 64 rooms, is right in the city and is a neighbor of the Victory Liner Passenger Center. The hotel has its own hotspot/way that connects it to the bus terminal, thus by providing greater access and convenience to its guests.

For more info, call (074) 619-2333 or (02) 895-7171, or email info@mountainview.ph. Visit www.mountainview.com

Travel tips and tricks on the web

Knowing how to conduct web search in Google can help immensely in organizing one's travel

"Google it" has become a catch phrase for a web activity that people commonly engaged in (words be a gamut of things on the web. People, events, places and things that traditionally take awhile to search come popping out of the screen once you "google it."

For a traveler, an organized "googling it" or web searching can provide for a hassle-free trip. Web searching that can be useful for traveling doesn't only involve buying a subject on the search tap. It involves various and topic, which the search giant Google, has added to its Google web arts to make "googling it" more useful to people, particularly travelers.

People are scouring the web for potential vacation spots and using Google service would make organizing your travel easier as well as knowing the places and the language helpful in getting out of the maze of your travel.

Here are some tips and links to maximize your local travel experience:

1. Look tips from fellow travelers

Read what others have done during their visit in your chosen destination using Google Blog Search. Many travelers create blogs with commentaries, photos, and great local tips.

2. Get advice on hotels, restaurants, attractions

Get recommendations from fellow travelers on hotels, restaurants, attractions, and rentals by opening your Google Chrome web browser and installing the Travelocity application. Browse through millions of reviews and photos from travelers and share or locally blocked with other travelers in the know.

3. Check the weather before you go

Before you pack you bags, make sure you check if you're packing right - you might bring summer clothes when it's icy cold in your destination. Simply type "weather" plus your desired location in Google search to see 4 hour-day weather forecast instantly.

4. Familiarize yourself with your destination.

Know the establishments near your hotel by checking Google Maps. Found a restaurant you fancy? Go to its Place Page by clicking the "more info" link in Google Maps to read reviews and note the phone number of the establishment so you can reserve a table ahead of time.

5. Bring along a virtual tour guide.

Travelling without a tour guide to point famous landmarks for you? Download Google Goggles for your phone and simply take a snapshot of the landmark, and Google will tell you what it is, instantly. You can also search to identify works of art, wine labels, and barcodes.

Camels at Desert Festival

Temple at Lodurva

Relive the glorious past in Rajasthan

Hawa Mahal, Jaipur

Indian Tiger at Ranthambore

Glorious & Exotic Savoury

By Marlet D. Salazar

India is a dream destination for any type of traveler. It is touted as the most picturesque country in the world where there is a scene waiting to be captured in a photograph. So much has been said about India but there is still so much to discover.

Rajasthan is a land of colors. From its glorious past to its makeup to tents and palaces, even the golden sands and the clothes, color is everywhere.

It is accessible if one is coming from the cities of Delhi and Mumbai. Tourists can experience today's famous transportation which is the train or have a long and enjoyable trip in a bus. To those who want to get there fast, air travel cuts that travel time short.

Rajasthan forms part of the Great Indian Desert called Thar which is also best seen through the three kingdoms of Jaisalmer, Bikaner, and Jodhpur or otherwise known as the Desert Triangle.

Jaipur or the Pink City is the capital of Rajasthan. It is so called as the Pink City because of the extensive use of pink stones in its opulent palaces, awe-inspiring temples, and beautiful gardens. Marvel at the wonderful majestic Art-Deco at Amber and that really adorable colorful fountain of life at the Birla Temple. Call it eye-candy but Jaipur is a must-see destination in the whole of India.

Travel back to the 8th century with a visit to Jaisalmer, a stone observatory that was made possible by astronomers long during that time. It is a medieval fact about the best forts and people still get to visit and admire this splendid work of architecture.

Visit the Amer Palace in style and feel how royals lived by riding on elephants while feasting the eyes of wonderful hills. The forte case of Jaigarh and Nahargarh overlook Amer Palace, a perfect backdrop.

Udaipur is another place that any tourist going to India must visit. It is probably the best location for a marriage proposal or honeymoon because this considered as one of the most romantic cities in the country especially with its lakeview touchmen. It is here where the famous James Bond movie Octopussy and Sheena Jai Singh affair was built in 1983.

To those who have a thing for arts and culture, Shekhawati is teeming with intricate wall paintings one will wonder how it was done during the early centuries. The wall paintings are a testament to today's colorful past and talented ancestors. It is touted as an open-air gallery of Rajasthan.

The jaw-dropping treasures will leave anyone awed. The best rooms for shopper-seeing are Jhunjhunu, Mandawa, Fatehpur, Ramgarh, Churu, Mahansar, Mukundgarh, Dundlod, Nawalgarh, Lakshmangarh, and Sikar.

From art to wildlife, tourists should add in their itinerary a visit to wildlife parks and sanctuaries of Rajasthan. India takes care of its wildlife and works to the preservation of endangered species. Tigers still roam in sanctuaries and get a sight of the very elusive but wonderful leopards. There are so many animals to see like deer, monkeys, wild dogs, boars, and impressive species of birds.

The wild sanctuary at Sariska, also known as Kesroldeo Sariska National Park, is popular for its waterfalls and where the beautiful Siberian crane once existed.

The visit to India is not complete if a tourist doesn't bask in style like a Maharajah. Rajasthan on Wheels is a newly built train has all the luxury and comfort of modern travel. The journey tells any adventurer to see the faces of India in just one trip. Pastel, for the eyes are the sand dunes, forts, palaces, and even the sanctuaries. The interiors of the train are equally magnificent topped with scrumptious meals, wines, and personalized service by the Khidmatgars.

For more information, log on to www.incredibleindia.org. Email info@indiatourism.org, indiatourism_#01-01 Orkid House, 20 Kramat Lane, Singapore. Tel. No. +65-6235-3600; Fax: +65-6235-8677.

Bada Bagh, Jaisalmer

Bikaner Pottery

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My brief love affair with a condominium unit

From page 11

to pay for the daily maintenance, security and other administrative services. Here, it is well worth it because the hallways are always clean, the staff is courteous and alert, and security will mercet many suspicious characters at a call from the front desk.

It is also a plus that the unit we are renting has enough room to accommodate all my sons' electronic gadgets. For this reason, the best designs for condominiums would be a minimalist, fully functional style. Enough of the kitsch, please. There's just no room for that in tiny spaces.

When I first moved in, there was just one word to describe the difference between living here and living in a regular home like the one I had been used to: claustrophobic. One can't really do much to leave, especially the cooking. Use stoves are seldom allowed in condominium buildings for obvious safety reasons.

The restrictions bring about a change in lifestyle. The usual Filipino meals are reinvented, using more practical ways of cooking, unless one doesn't mind the curtains and throw pillows smelling like tuyo. In the sunlit kitchen, even if one turns the exhaust fan on, the neighbors can guess what you're having for dinner, because the odors from juice cooking fill up the corridors.

In the trash, ironically, lies an important life lesson. In this building, there are strict rules for waste segregation which I follow religiously, lest I get fined by management. It was a unanimous task at first to have to make a mental note whether what one was disposing of was wet, dry, recyclable or toxic. But the task soon becomes an easy habit with daily practice.

Proper waste disposal also helped purge the kitchen of the tiny cockroaches that we concluded were coming from the other units smartly making for roaches to return from abroad or a new tenant to move in. Living in a condo means keeping the house to oneself, but for oneself alone, but also in kind consideration of all the other dwellers in the building.

The sense of community plays out here, not in the most grapevine socialization that happens in the typical local homescape but in silent acts of respect that may be as simple as waste segregation. It is a sensitivity that moves one to act for the good of the whole.

So how does my condo-living honeymoon end? One scenario will require all the smarts I can bear prepping up the old home. I have had it repainted in light, happy colors for my own homecoming. I shall bid goodbye to this condo unit I have begun to call home, because an old love beckons and I must go.

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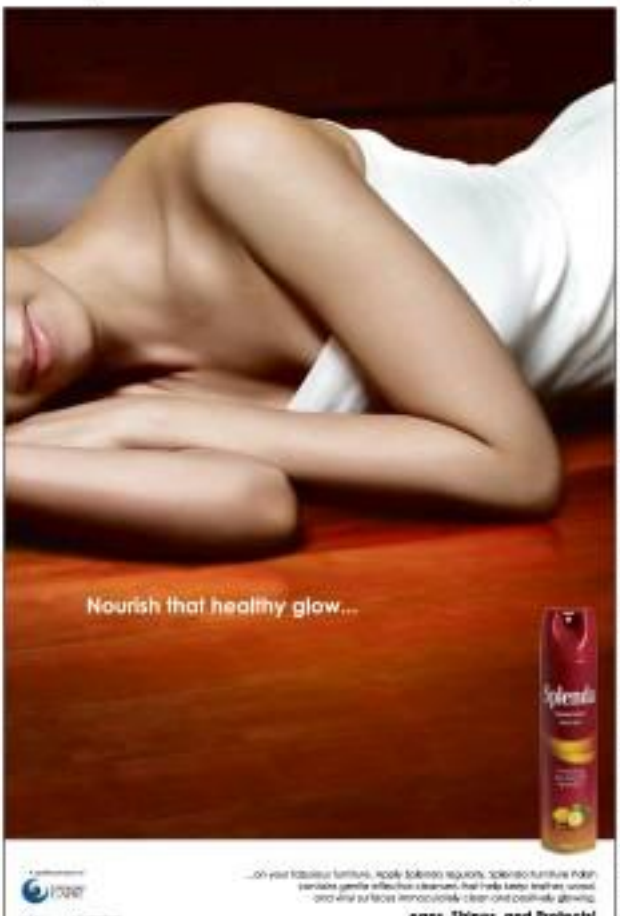

Fellows of UST national criticism workshop lured

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas announces the fellows to the 3rd J. Elizalde Navarro Workshop in Criticism on the Arts and the Humanities (JENWC).

Ms. Aldi Alvarez (University of Santo Tomas), Patrick Campos (University of the Philippines Diliman), Richard Bolisay (UP Diliman/DeSalle), Glenn Francis S. Diaon (Ateneo de Manila), Mark Francis Lopez (Central Luzon State University), Dominican College, LSU, Gianna Maria Nicolas Rosell (UST), Maricris Montemayor (UP Diliman), Abel Kristian Undarsilla (De Lasalle University), Timothy Ong (Ateneo), Elka Evoche (U. Regulus (UST), Aaron Oscar M. Salazar (De La Salle University-UP Diliman), Ruth Mellan Tinsiano (UP Baguio), and Jose Jose C. Tibudan (Ateneo).

The submitted manuscripts have for their objects of inquiry and critical analysis the literary visual, films, performing, graphic and digital arts.

JEN-criticism workshop, which will be held May 29-June 3 at Camp Dulcesimo Hotel in Baguio City, is endorsed and organized by the University, the 83-year-old official academic organ of UST. It is held in honor of the late Bienvenido Arbit for the Visual Arts and an event J. Elizalde Navarro, who was an editor and critic part of the Sanctuary during its undergrad days. It is also held to continue until the 400th anniversary of UST in 2011.

Call Ralph Semino Galan at 09205-5220602/or e-mail ralphsemino@yahoo.com.ph/gmail.com.

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BACK WITH MUCH OF THE SAME
Willie Revillame's production team feeds "introduced" treasure of TV5's all-out support for the controversial host. Story on Page F6.

'Grumpy' Bieber draws tiny Hong Kong welcome

HONG KONG—Canadian pop sensation Justin Bieber usually shows hordes of screaming girls as his solid core supports, but the mop-haired teen idol got a largely disappointing greeting when he arrived in Hong Kong.

Seven fans showed up at the airport, the Sunday Morning Post reported, calling it an "embarrassingly low-key reception." In response to the tiny turnout, footage of his arrival posted on YouTube...where the star made his name—had been viewed nearly 155,000 times by Sunday, four days after he jetted in.

The paper said there were "more assets" more bodyguards than human fans at the airport, with the 17-year-old pop sensation "looking grumpy and walking straight past the small

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Stars weigh in on RH bill

THE RAGING controversy about the reproductive health (RH) bill has reached colossal proportions. Neither side wants to budge.

Should the RH bill, which guarantees access to information and methods of birth control, make our country more productive?

Being prolife doesn't stop the moment the baby is born. It continues as the parent struggles to raise the child.

Delicate matter

The RH bill is such a delicate and tricky matter. It all boils down to what our conscience says/lets say/tells.

RH could very well stand for responsible habit.

Here's what some celebrities have to say about the issue. Go forth and multiply or go away and vigil?

Lea Salonga: "I am in favor of the RH bill. I have been wondering for the longest time why nothing of this sort has been passed. It is not even compulsory, so I understand. It is just to make couples realize they have an option to have just enough offspring to provide a better quality of life for the kids. I respect the views of those who are against it but sadly, we are still a developing country. Instead of going against the tide of economic prosperity. Although giving life is a privilege and a blessing, we must always remember that giving life also means great responsibility."

Lucy Torres-Gomez: "I am prolife. While all this debate is going on, there are pushing for the passage of the RH bill. I personally do not believe we should take it upon ourselves to decide who should be given life or deprived of it by passing a law to make it legal. Let us recognize and respect God's sovereignty and wisdom. Life is a gift. Let us also not be threatened by the idea of overpopulation or poverty. The RH bill is not guaranteed to answer these issues."

Jinggoy Estrada (Sen): "The Philippines does not need the RH bill. All its good provisions are already mandated in the Constitution and are already designed programs of the agencies concerned. They just need to be implemented through sincere and aggressive policy enforcement."

Amy Perez: "I'm pro-RH bill because I believe we really need to educate the poor women on the choice they have to make and teach them to become responsible parents para 'di dumami ang batang walang maipapakain. Isn't it a matter of enlightenment by inspiring."

Benjie Paras: "It's the right thing but for those who want to explore, it's better to have protection."

Pinky Amador: "I am pro-RH bill. What's the point of giving birth if you can't give them a good life?"

Rachel Alejandro: "I am 100 percent in favor of the RH bill. The population growth is out of control and the government should do what it can to help educate the people and provide family planning options. It's a matter of survival. I feel for people who can barely make ends meet because they have too many kids to support."

Luke Mejares: "I'm in favor of the RH bill. It's better that people have the option to choose from different kinds of contraceptives because in these hard times, the female should be able to feed the kids adequately and send them to good schools and give them a bright future."

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada: "I am for the RH bill. There are too many kids on the streets and income is some not support them. A lot of child trafficking and prostitution, too, if income subsides."

Carlos Martinez: "I am for the RH bill. We need to control the population for our country's economy to improve."

Urban legend

For generations, Taiwan have that urban legend of a mythical creature (monster or sumo) called Gumihu. It's said to be a nine-tailed fox that takes the form of a woman and seduces men, so that later they can pull out the liver out of their fragile human bodies.

Action star Cha Tae-hyun, who top-bills 911.CBD's newest franchise's "My Girlfriend is a Gumiho" (weekdays 9:45 p.m. after "Faithless"), encountered a Gumiho himself. He has proven that they are not capable of taking your liver, rather, they can take away your heart.

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DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

'Grumpy' ... from page F1

group of fans as they yelled out his name."

But some fans defended the heartthrob, saying his gloomy demeanor was due to him falling ill before setting in the southern Chinese city.

Bach Boots, 13, told the Post that the light fan turnout was likely a result of it being a school day.

Bieber reportedly displayed the same rude behavior as he left Shanghai on May 13 following a one-night concert at 3M Hall of Asia in Pasay City. Some airport personnel and departing passengers were surprised when Bieber told media members vying his departure to "back off."

Still, Bieber's concert on Friday in Hong Kong—save for the last shows in "My World" tour—saw a 13,500-seat stadium almost packed to capacity for the first time.

The pop sensation started to stardom after videos of his performances were posted on YouTube, with his album "My World 2.0" hitting the top of the US charts.

AFP

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PRIEST in 3D
FAST FIVE
IN THE NAME OF LOVE

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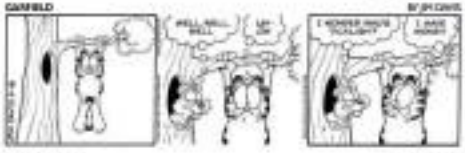

A. LIPPH BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PH_LEGASPI

DICK TRACY

LOVEBIRDS BY ELIZABETH HOROWOLD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

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SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY MARA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is an excellent day to make hand plans for the future or plans to go to cultural activities alone or more experienced might have advice for you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Sit down with others, maintaining patience, and developing how to hand over responsibility and shared progress. You're on the road to career as well as personal success.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Leave for the edition of your daily today, or perhaps from someone else and has more progress than you. Be sure to what others have to say.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Important solutions money and for work. But maybe endurance and concentration today. Why? Because you'll find inspiration in the form of an. You won't handle all.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Partners are known today to discuss the cure and education of their children. People in the arts who have a special interest in children will be very helpful. Be sure to avoid unnecessary risks.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Outside discussions will be unusually practical today. One is the device redemption about basic repairs, family businesses and labor plans for family members.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You're in a practical frame of mind today. This may sound like more work than you're used to, but you'll enjoy the unfamiliar and being challenged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be gentle today, you will want to be very direct but consider not being overbearing. Be considerate of others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Today the driver is in your car dancing with Mars favors. This makes you feel very powerful. You definitely will avoid wasting time — or wasting anything, for that matter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Your renewed confidence and energy today is leading to something, you'll probably feel pressure you've ventured.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your personal with someone else specialize in more experienced can benefit you today. You mention that you want learn anything of you're doing the talk.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Work will without you today to make sure you are willing to accept your duties and responsibilities. Those who observe you might have a considerable challenge. What detail. You might as well take the first and it's worth.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

						7	8	
					7	4	2	5
				1	5	3		9
			9	8		1	4	7
		7	1					
3	4	1						
4		9	3					
1			7					
8	5	6	2					

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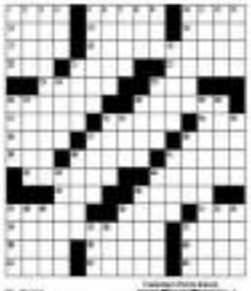

Bitter Star still spews venom vs ex-bosses

KYLIE Padilla

BITTER Star is still spewing venom against former home studio. Apparently its Disney former bosses for career setbacks. Ili used to get plum projects, with the intervention of Lorenzo's high Executive. When their closeness went pfft, so did the special treatment. Ili isn't shy to let it out in front of embarrassed friends.

New nose

Penny Singer has obviously undergone a little nose job. Comparing old and new photos will confirm it. Is this the reason that her voice is no longer as good as it used to be? It could also be an unhealthy schedule ... Pi needs a break, Nene.

Selective vision

They were inseparable once, now foreigners Aster and Brunhild Arenas avoid each other like the plague. At a show biz gathering, Bi "snubbed" Gi—who couldn't care less, truth to tell.

Gi is provoking Controversial ex-girlfriend of Popular Monk, Ili, on the other hand, is being linked to Handsome Hind. As the song goes, "Ewan ko ba sa inyong dalawa ... mahiwaga!"

Cita's A-okay

Character actress Cita Astals was featured on "Wish Ko Lang" last year, after she suffered a breakdown. At that time, Cita seemed reluctant to get help and chose to live in an abandoned, dilapidated house. Recently, Cita was spotted at the Manila Polo Club in Forbes Park.

"I'm well now," she assured an old friend. "Wish Ko Lang" host Nicky Morales wants a follow-up episode to say the story with a happy ending. I couldn't care less, truth to tell.

GA is provoking Controversial ex-girlfriend of Popular Monk, Ili, on the other hand, is being linked to Handsome Hind. As the song goes, "Ewan ko ba sa inyong dalawa ... mahiwaga!"

RUSHES

Top of the talk shows

BORIS Padilla

Ito chune who missed last week's TV galshows (And why we are moved, if we are moved):

• Vhuchelle Ann Ho, asked if she's contemplating marriage with boyfriend John Prats: "Wala po akong ungmg" (Give her one, quick!)

• Jinkee Pacquiao on chatting with their fellows: "Isa-isahin ko rin ayos [na Pilipinas] ... dito mag-e-exercise sa subdivision" (Sure!)

• Vickie Rushton's advice to daughter Kylie: "Pwedeyo mag-ayos ng konti pero 'yung sa tama lang. Mahirap na mahirapan kong pinagbibihis 'yan, tatong ano sa mga labahi, panpalowa, at ewraps. Mapanda nang anak ko eh, pag sinuwerteng 'yan ng mga magaling na doktor. At least ng swimsuit ko!" (Wait on!)

• Jessica Soho, asked if he's ready to settle down: "Wala pa nga akong girlfriend, eh!" (Applicants, go!)

• Bea Alonzo on reports that she enrolled removed exboyfriend Gerald Anderson during the recent holidaymo: Mendiola amanda: "Ang layo kasi ng space nun ... Isang kompleto pa sila, nasa malalayo kaganap 'yun. Si Ito!" (Not necessarily)

• John Lloyd on rumors that he and girlfriend Melissa Ricks are going through a rough patch: "We're good, no problems, nagkausap kami, we had said good things. We just have some things that we have to fix." (Typical.)

• Angel Locsin on Phil Younghusband: "Exclusively dating (Iloveit) ... Yung movie na akong dine-date, 'yung kuya ko sa kompo'ning ... Isinlip ng tao to kuya ko, para sa pagsang-ayunan di. Gusto kong i-enjoy 'yung buhay ko ngayon. Kasi 'yun 'di ayaw-isang magdate. Hindi kong maging siguradu." (Good answer!)

(Nicar Ishll, E-Gee, Rhoeden Cristal, Ha Buzz, with Allan Policarpio, Contributor)

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FAST & FURIOUS 5 (In Digital 2D) – PG13	SOMETHING BORROWED	PRIEST (in 3D) – R13
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20	1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

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4 IN THE NAME OF LOVE	6	PRIEST in 3D
5 SOMETHING BORROWED	7	FAST FIVE

MOVIE TIME

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2: THOR (3D)
3: FAST FIVE
4: THE KING'S SPEECH
5: WAKER FOR ELEPHANTS / SCREAM 4
6: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
7: SOMETHING BORROWED

GREENBELT 1

1: FAST FIVE
2: IN THE NAME OF LOVE

GREENBELT 3

1: FAST FIVE
2: THOR (3D)
3: THE KING'S SPEECH
4: PRIEST (3D)
5: SOMETHING BORROWED

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
2: THOR
3: PRIEST (3D)
4: FAST FIVE
5: SOMETHING BORROWED

ASIA CENTER CEBU

1: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
2: MATINS
3: PRIEST (3D)
4: THOR

MARQUEE

1: FAST FIVE
2: PRIEST (3D)
3: THOR
4: IN THE NAME OF LOVE

MARKET! MARKET!

1: PRIEST (3D)
2: THOR (3D)
3: THE KING'S SPEECH
4: FAST FIVE
5: WAKER FOR ELEPHANTS / SCREAM 4
6: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
7: SCREAM 4

TRINOMA

1: THE KING'S SPEECH
2: SOMETHING BORROWED
3: THOR (3D)
4: PRIEST (3D)
5: FAST FIVE
6: WAKER FOR ELEPHANTS / SCREAM 4
7: IN THE NAME OF LOVE

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₱16-M 'gift' from TV5 to Willie

By Mariel R. Cruz
Photos by Arnold Almacen

INSTEAD of getting kicked out, controversial TV host Willie Revillame and his game show have received a "gift" worth millions from the home network.

According to Jay Mondragon, business unit head of the educational programs, now called "Wil Time Bigtime," TV5 spent ₱16 million for the LED (light-emitting diode) flooring that previously existed on the show (see inset).

"That doesn't include the sidewalk and the LED screens I installed on the center wall, which cost P12 million, and those on the sides, another P6 million," Mondragon said. Income tax after the shows.

"Wil Time Bigtime" is a reproduction of TV5 and Revillame's Wil Productions. TV5 owns one president and COO Roberto Barreiro said, "We've long thought of improving the show—even before the controversy. While the show was off the air, we took the time to install the new equipment."

The game show formerly called "Willing Willie" enjoyed airing on ABS-CBN for 13 years before it was yanked off the air in March 2010 after Revillame left the network.

"WE WERE paid even while the show was not airing," says "Wil Time Bigtime" cohost Shalani Soledad.

WILLIE Revillame

"WILLIE kissed me hands! I almost got kicked [laughs]," cohost Shalani Soledad said.

Revillame's cohost, Sakuwela exception Shalani Soledad, said Pangilinan and TV5 "took [good] care of us... We [were paid] even while the show was not airing."

But Pangilinan wasn't around to watch as Saturday as he did on Oct. 23, when the show premiered. Barreiro said the chairman was in California, "before he left," "that's when I told [Willie] productions, 'Pagbalik niya, pagandahin ni mga mga.'"

The controversy had resulted in ad pullouts. Shareholders and negotiations with advertisers began last week. "I'm confident that most of them will come back," he said. "I personally met with them. They're very cooperative in the discussions."

On Saturday, it was as if nothing happened. Revillame was back to his confident self. He even kissed rumored girlfriend Soledad's hand.

Prayers were said five minutes before airing at 8 p.m. The opening number featured the 18-member Bigtime girls, formerly WW Girls, as well as hosts Sugar Mercado, Aiman Herlao and Ruby Ruiz.

Revillame exchanged jokes with guests Ram-I. Perez, Nonoy Zuñiga, Marcus Simon and Richard Gomez during the "Wil Time Bigtime" segment, which also featured young actresses Carla Humphries, Kitz Azul and Bryce Montano. That was the same segment where Jan-Jan Seno, 6, performed a macho dance.

During the show, Revillame announced an upcoming world tour as part of the promotion for TV5's international channel to be launched later this year. He thanked those who supported him "when I doubted myself."

"The show's new title has an international twist in it. It should be easier to promote when we go abroad," explained Revillame. "Since we changed 85 percent of the content, we thought of changing the title as well."

SPOTTED in the audience were supporters of Senator Gregorio Honasan and Senator Manny Villar.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011

Republic of the Philippines
City of Lapu-Lapu 6015
Office of the Mayor

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR LGU BONDS

The (1) Ty Government of Lapu-Lapu intends to issue Local Government Bond to finance income generating projects. The Consultant shall facilitate/advise the City on the Floatation of the Bonds.

The City Government of Lapu-Lapu through the issuance of Local Government Bonds, intends to apply the sum equivalent to three percent (3%) of the total loan value of the bonds or an amount not exceeding P600,000.00 (P600,000.00). Php 15,000,000.00 or whichever amount the Consultant for Financial Advisory Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

The City Government of Lapu-Lapu, now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for the Financial Advisory Services. Interested consultants must submit their eligibility documents on or before May 25, 2011 until 5:00 p.m. at 6015, City Hall, Lapu-Lapu City c/o Mrs. Bondmaturity Office. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on the conformity to "pass/fail" criterion.

The Selection Committee shall draw up the short-list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents/Expression of Interest and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 7160 otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991" and applicable procedures under R.A. 9184.

The short list shall consist of seven (7) prospective bidders who will be entitled to participate. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

a.) The Consultant must be a duly organized Philippine proprietorships, partnership, Corporation or joint venture as defined by RRVA of R.A. 9184;

b.) Must have at least successfully floated five (5) LGU Bonds;

c.) Must be willing to provide the consultancy services contingent on the successful Bond issuance;

d.) Must submit all the required eligibility documents e.g. list of key personnel and curriculum vitae.

The objectives of bidding activities is as follows:

	Activities	Schedule	Venue
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	May 18, 2011 to June 10, 2011, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	City General Services Office, City Government Center, Mactan Lapu-Lapu City
2	Pre-Bid Conference	May 30, 2011 2:00 p.m.	--do--
3	Submission and Opening of Bids	June 10, 2011, 2:00 p.m.	--do--

Bidders will be conducted through open competitive bidding adopting the procedures in the IRR of R.A. 9184.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality Based Evaluation Procedure (QBE/SSS) procedure. The simple and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be detailed in the Bidding Documents.

The contract shall be completed within **three hundred sixty five (365) calendar days.**

The City Government of Lapu-Lapu reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Bid Documents as of 11,000.00 only

(sgd.) **VICENTE O. YBAÑEZ**
Chairman, Selection Committee

(RO – May 18, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ROXAS
6th Congressional District
City Hall, Roxas City 5800, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID NO. 024-11 FOR

Materials for the Construction of 2 Classroom School Building at Brgy. San Jose, Cuartero Memorial School, Brgy. San Jose, Roxas City the Chairman of the Bids and Awards Committee, City of Roxas, invites bidders for the Materials for the Construction of 2 Classroom School Building at Brgy. San Jose, Cuartero Memorial School, Brgy. San Jose, Roxas City, the delivery of the Goods is required within 30 days after receipt of NTP. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to pertinent rules on GPPB Circular No. 3-2005.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Roxas City Government and purchase the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on **May 19, June 1, 2011** from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable Bidding Documents fee in the amount of **₱1,000.00**.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Roxas City Government, provided that bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The **Roxas City Government** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **May 26, 2011, 2:00pm** at the **BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Roxas City Hall** which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **June 1, 2011, 2:00pm BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Roxas City Hall**. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.

Bid opening shall be on **June 1, 2011, 2:00pm at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Roxas City Hall**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The **Roxas City Government** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

(sgd.) **ENGR. ANGELITA A. ARANDIGOY**
BAC Chairman
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Secretariat, Roxas City Hall
(028) 621-0100 local 111, 210

(PCO – May 18, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RESOLUTION NO. 9334

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections (Commission) is set to conduct the election of regional officials in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) on 08 August 2011;

WHEREAS, the Commission filed an Urgent Motion in Jan. (DD) Baliki Sinsuat vs. ZAIDA Ajibar (5 April 2011, before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) in PET Case No. 001, entitled Bensaudi Abubar Mastura vs. Zaldy Ambolodto, et al., docketed as PET Case No. 001, praying that it be authorized to withdraw the Petition filed by petitioner, PET Case No. 001, and to have dismissed for the reasons stated in the motion and for the conduct of the August 08, 2011 ARMM elections;

WHEREAS, on 19 April 2011, the Commission filed a Manifestation in support of the April 19, 2011 Urgent Motion, praying that the possible 5,000 ballot boxes that can be retrieved and utilized for the ARMM elections, and providing pertinent guidelines for the conduct thereof;

WHEREAS, the PET, in its Order dated 20 (Dec 03 0), and after consideration of the Comment/Opposition of the parties in PET Case No. 001 on the Urgent Motion dated 19 April 2011 and Manifestation dated 19 April 2011, resolved to:

1. GRANT the Urgent Motion to (Jan 000 Baliki Sinsuat for the ARMM Elections filed by the Commission; and
2. ALLOW and AUTHORIZE the Commission to immediately commence the retrieval of not more than 5,000 ballot boxes from the custody of the Municipal Treasurer of the Municipalities stated (30 April 2011), and the subsequent transfer of the contents thereof to the designated ballot box custodian as the Committee may;
3. APPROVE and ADOPT the Guidelines on the Retrieval of Ballot Boxes for Use in the 08 August 2011 ARMM Elections (Guidelines) attached to and made by reference to the comment of the Commission dated 19 April 2011, and the ensuing transfer of ballot contents to the designated Committee Rooms; and
4. REQUIRE the Commission to submit a REPORT on the conduct of the retrieval of the 5,000 ballot boxes for use in the 08 August 2011 ARMM elections (Report) not later than seven (7) days from completion thereof;

WHEREAS, by the provisions of Section 4 of the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Election Election Code, and other election laws, the COMMISSION, as it hereby RESOLVED to promulgate, the following guidelines on the retrieval of 5,000 ballot boxes for use in the 08 August 2011 election of regional officials in the ARMM:

Section 1. List of Provinces/Municipalities where the 5,000 ballot boxes shall be retrieved. – The 5,000 ballot boxes to be used in the 08 August 2011 ARMM Election shall be retrieved from the following provinces, to wit:

PROVINCES	NO. OF BALLOT BOXES TO BE USED	NO. OF BALLOT BOXES TO BE RETRIEVED
1. Cotabato City	70	140
2. Datu Odin Sinsuat	70	140
3. Sultan Kudarat	70	140
4. Sultan Mastura	70	140
5. Parang	70	140
6. Buluan	70	140
7. Datu Piang	70	140
8. Shariff Aguak	70	140
9. Datu Saudi-Ampatuan	70	140
10. Datu Unsay	70	140
11. Mamasapano	70	140
12. Talayan	70	140
13. Pagalungan	70	140
14. Datu Blah T. Sinsuat	70	140
15. Datu Anggal Midtimbang	70	140
16. Datu Hoffer Ampatuan	70	140
17. Datu Paglas	70	140
18. Datu Salibo	70	140
19. Mangudadatu	70	140
20. Pandag	70	140
21. Rajah Buayan	70	140
22. Ampatuan	70	140
23. Upi	70	140
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461. Gen. S. K. Pendatun	70	140
462. Guindulungan	70	140
463. Mamasapano	70	140
464. Talitay	70	140
465. Paglat	70	140
466. Sultan Sumagka	70	140
467. Talayan	70	140
468. Pagalungan	70	140
469. Datu Piang	70	140
470. Datu Blah T. Sinsuat	70	140
471. Datu Anggal Midtimbang	70	140
472. Datu Hoffer Ampatuan	70	140
473. Datu Paglas	70	140
474. Datu Salibo	70	140
475. Mangudadatu	70	140
476. Pandag	70	140
477. Rajah Buayan	70	140
478. Ampatuan	70	140
479. Upi	70	140
480. Gen. S. K. Pendatun	70	140
481. Guindulungan	70	140
482. Mamasapano	70	140
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488. Datu Piang	70	140
489. Datu Blah T. Sinsuat	70	140
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493. Datu Salibo	70	140
494. Mangudadatu	70	140
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527. Datu Blah T. Sinsuat	70	140
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547. Datu Anggal Midtimbang	70	140
548. Datu Hoffer Ampatuan	70	140
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553. Rajah Buayan	70	140
554. Ampatuan	70	140
555. Upi	70	140
556. Gen. S. K. Pendatun	70	140
557. Guindulungan	70	140
558. Mamasapano	70	140
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560. Paglat	70	140
561. Sultan Sumagka	70	140
562. Talayan	70	140
563. Pagalungan	70	140
564. Datu Piang	70	140
565. Datu Blah T. Sinsuat	70	140
566. Datu Anggal Midtimbang	70	140

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Regional Office (Luzon Office)
Concepcion, City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PROCUREMENT OF 2011 TRUCKING SERVICES

Project Reference No. 2011-RSAC-PPDO-004

The National Food Authority, Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO) through its Corporate Budget for 2011 intends to apply the sum of Seventy One Million Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Five Pesos and 40/100 (P71,515,845.40) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of Dry Trucking Services requirements of NFA Region III. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected during opening.

General Description	Type/ Type Description	Min. No. of Truck Units Required	MT	ABC (PhP)
Cluster Pool to Regional Warehouses	Truck and Semi-Trailer / Trailer-on-truck (Minimum capacity of 30 tons inclusive of truck and trailer) including driver/s	20	7,150	P 49,410,000.00
Inland Port Movements	Truck and Semi-Trailer / Trailer-on-truck (Minimum capacity of 30 tons inclusive of truck and trailer) including driver/s	3	1,020	P 11,286,000
Pantabangan Warehouse to Port Area	Truck and Semi-Trailer / Trailer-on-truck (Minimum capacity of 30 tons inclusive of truck and trailer) including driver/s	3	1,020	P 11,286,000.00
	Total	26	9,190	P 71,515,845.40

The National Food Authority now invites bids for hauling services requirements of NFA Region III for the delivery of palay and/or rice from Cluster Pool to Regional Warehouses and Inland Ports of NFA Regions I, II, and Cluster Warehouses of Region III to Pantabangan Warehouse, Nueva Ecija for the period January 01, 2011 to December 31, 2011 or until the maximum contract amount is reached, whichever comes first. Payment is conditioned only upon the issuance of the notice of acceptance and services rendered.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, with capacity and experience to undertake the lease to supply/deliver/hauling/trucking services as stipulated in the Bidding Documents, pursuant to Section 23 and Section 24 of RA 9184 and its IRR.

Bidders must have completed, within the last three (3) years, a single contract that is similar to the contract to be bid, and whose value, adjusted to current prices using the National Statistics Office (NSO) consumer price index, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC.

Interested bidders may purchase the bidding documents from the NFA Accountant at NFA Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO), Concepcion City upon payment of the non-refundable bidding fee of P10,000.00 and submission of the following documentary requirements:

1) Letter of Intent;
2) Sworn statement of the Truck Owner/Van Builder that a minimum number of owned trucks equivalent to 50% of the required truck units is to be bid, with not more than two (2) years old registration of certification from Land Transportation Office (LTO) and Philippine Truckers Association (PTA) or existing business permit for the purpose of payment for application and copy of acknowledged audit reports;
3) Sworn statement that the prospective bidder's total number of trucks classified per safe reference handbook (for example type trucks required for hauling services from Daily Port to the different provinces in Region III and 10 wheel trucks for delivery services within Region III and from Inland Ports to Inland Provinces per van/ container / 6 wheeler trucks classification);
4) Sworn statement stating that the prospective bidder has been in hauling business for the last three (3) years and has been operating continuously with submission of permit to do business and/or any services under the same permit; and
5) Xerox copy of NFA Accreditation Certificate issued by NFA for 2010 or 2011 as registered Transporter of Grains.

The bidding documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the NFA (www.nfa.gov.ph) and website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System or PhilGEPS (www.philgeps.net). However, prospective bidders who secured the bidding documents online, shall only be allowed to participate in the bidding upon payment of the non-refundable bidding fee and submission of the documentary requirements as indicated above. Purchase of the bidding documents shall be made at the NFA-CLRO Cashier's Office and not to any other person.

The bidding conference will be conducted at the NFA-CLRO Conference Room (2nd Floor, Waterfront Annex, Concepcion City) according to the following schedule:

Activity	Date/Time
1 Pre-bid conference	May 19, 2011 (Thursday) at 10:00 A.M.
2 Last day for submission of bids	May 25, 2011 (Wednesday) at 10:00 A.M.
3 Bid Opening/Evaluation	May 25, 2011 (Wednesday) at 10:00 A.M.
4 Post-qualification/Award	May 26, 2011 (Thursday) at 10:00 A.M.

The Pre-Bidding Conference shall be opened to all interested parties who have paid the Bidding Fee. Bids and eligibility submissions must be submitted on the NFA-CLRO Conference Room (2nd Floor, Waterfront Annex, Concepcion City) on or before the date and time specified in the preceding paragraph. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For more information, interested bidders may contact the National Food Authority, Region III Office at the following addresses:

Name of Officer : ANGEL C. MIRANDA, JR.
Name of Office : National Food Authority
Address : Muñoz Highway, Concepcion City
Tel. No. : 045-935-2107/045-935-1118
Fax No. : 045-935-1118

The National Food Authority, Region III reserves the right to waive any defect or informalities in the bids, accept the bids best advantageous to the government, and to reject any or all bids and annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ANGEL C. MIRANDA, JR.
Assistant Regional Director
NFA-CLRO Concepcion

(FB - May 18, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao de Sur
CITY OF DIGOS

INVITATION TO BID FOR PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CITY HALL BUILDING – PART B AND B

Reference No. / Solicitation No. 2011-05-114

1. The City Government of Digos, by the approved Annual Investment Plan of the Philippines, invites bids for the Construction of New Municipal Hall, Two (2) Storey Concrete Reinforced Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur, Phase II and III, Bidding Documents are available at the Office of the City Treasurer, Digos City, Davao del Sur and upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per set. Bidders may purchase the Bidding Documents from the City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Bidding Documents may be purchased starting May 18, 2011 and shall be completely sold on May 31, 2011.

Activities	Date/Time	Venue
Publication of Bid Opportunity	May 18, 2011	City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur
Deadline of Issuance of Bid Documents	May 31, 2011 (4:00 P.M.)	City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur
Pre-Bid Conference	May 27, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)	City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur
Receipt of Eligibility Documents and Bids	June 7, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)	City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur
Opening of Eligibility Documents	June 7, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)	City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur
Evaluation of Eligibility and Bidding	June 7 to 10, 2011	City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur
Post-Qualification	June 13, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)	City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur
Notice of Award	June 14, 2011	City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur

2. The City Government of Digos now invites bids for Procurement of Goods and Services for the Construction of New City Hall Building – Part B and B. The Construction of the project shall be completed within Two Hundred Seventy (270) Calendar Days.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, with capacity and experience to undertake the lease to supply/deliver/hauling/trucking services as stipulated in the Bidding Documents, pursuant to Section 23 and Section 24 of RA 9184 and its IRR.

4. Prospective bidders must have completed, within the last Five (5) years, a single contract that is similar to the contract to be bid, and whose value, adjusted to current prices using the National Statistics Office consumer price index, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC.

5. Interested bidders may view and purchase the Bidding Documents from the address and website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System or PhilGEPS (www.philgeps.net). However, prospective bidders who secured the Bidding Documents online, shall only be allowed to participate in the bidding upon payment of the non-refundable bidding fee and submission of the documentary requirements as indicated above. Purchase of the bidding documents shall be made at the Office of the City Treasurer and not to any other person.

6. The bidding conference will be conducted at the Office of the City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur.

7. The Pre-Bidding Conference shall be opened to all interested parties who have paid the Bidding Fee. Bids and eligibility submissions must be submitted on the Office of the City Treasurer's Office, City Hall Building, Digos City, Davao del Sur on or before the date and time specified in the preceding paragraph. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. The City Government of Digos reserves the right to waive any defect or informalities in the bids, accept the bids best advantageous to the government, and to reject any or all bids and annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. For more information, please refer to:

Atty. Rex Ray T. Ala
City Treasurer
Digos City, Davao del Sur
Telefax No. (082) 553-3000

Engr. Edward C. Bermudez, CL, MEP
City Engineer
Digos City, Davao del Sur
Telefax No. (082) 553-3000

(Sgd.) Atty. Rex Ray T. Ala
City Treasurer

(FB May 18, 2011)

URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

OFFICE STAFF

Applicants must be:
- Female, 23-27 years old,
- Acctg. Graduate, Computer literate

Bring updated resumé with 2x2 photo and apply personally at:

MIND BUILDERS PUBLISHING HOUSE
111-E JuLi Bldg., Molave St., Proj. 3, Q.C.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO UNIT
P13.000/mo. to DP
Condo unit in Pioneer Woods near the Ortigas Avenue Extension. Call Ms. Ana Marie Arellano

NOTICE OF LOST

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Legal Notice

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ROLEX LOUIS VUITTON

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
Department of Labor and Employment
Blue F. Cute Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
Telefax No.: (632) 721-0481
supplies2008@yahoo.com / www.poea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA), through the Internal Appropriations for the CY 2011 intends to apply the sum of P4000,000.00 (Four Million Pesos) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Renovation of Male and Female Comfort Rooms – Phase I and Repair of Blue Building Roofing and Waterproofing. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected during the Opening.

The POEA now invites bids for the following procurement activities:

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET for the Contract	DATE & TIME		Place of Bid Security (Bank Guarantee)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline of Submission and Receipt of Bids/Bidding Documents	
Renovation of Male and Female Comfort Rooms – Phase I and Repair of Blue Building Roofing and Waterproofing	P3,700,000.00	May 23, 2011 (10:00 a.m.)	June 1, 2011 (10:00 a.m.)	P74,000.00
Supply of Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support Training and Medicines/Medical Supplies for the Establishment of the MET Infirmary Additional POEA Responsible Officer	P1,997,500.00	May 23, 2011 (11:00 a.m.)	June 1, 2011 (11:00 a.m.)	P39,950.00

Bidders should have completed, within two (2) calendar years prior to the opening of bids, a similar contract. The bidder must submit a valid PhilGEPS Registration Certificate (Platinum Membership) (all pages).

Bidding for the Supply of One (1) Unit 20HP/22.5KVA Diesel Generator Set with Accessories and Weatherproof Enclosure is open to all interested bidders or their duly authorized representatives. Bidders must submit their bids on the deadline for the CY 2011 Lease and Maintenance Contract of Photocopying Machines and Printers.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform".

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor Blue F. Cute Bldg., Ortigas Avenue corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the said address on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders beginning on May 19, 2011 from the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents.

The POEA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on May 23, 2011, 10:00 a.m. for the Renovation of Male and Female Comfort Rooms – Phase I and Repair of Blue Building Roofing and Waterproofing and 11:00 a.m. for the Supply of Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support Training and Medicines/Medical Supplies for the Establishment of the MET Infirmary Additional POEA Responsible Officer at the 3rd Floor, Office of the Director for Licensing and Regulation, Blue F. Cute Bldg., Ortigas Avenue corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City, which will be open to prospective bidders. It will be clarified and further discussed the Bidding Documents.

Bids for the Renovation of Male and Female Comfort Rooms – Phase I must be delivered to the BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor Blue F. Cute Bldg., Ortigas Avenue corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City on or before 10:00 a.m. on June 1, 2011 and for the Supply of One (1) Unit 20HP/22.5KVA Diesel Generator Set with Accessories and Weatherproof Enclosure on or before the conclusion of the BAC Bidding Activities for Expendable Supplies (Paper for more) be delivered on or before 11:00 a.m. on June 1, 2011. All bids shall be accompanied by a valid warranty in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid security for the Renovation of Male and Female Comfort Rooms – Phase I and for the Supply of One (1) Unit 20HP/22.5KVA Diesel Generator Set with Accessories and Weatherproof Enclosure in the form of Bid Security Bond issued by a surety or guarantee company duly accredited by the Insurance Commission and callable on demand, or Manager's Check, Cashier's Check or Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a universal or commercial bank in favor of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) shall be valid for a period of 120 days from the date of the opening of bids. Bid security shall be submitted at the 3rd Floor, Office of the Director for Licensing and Regulation, Blue F. Cute Bldg., Ortigas Avenue corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City. Bid security shall be returned to all bidders except to the first and second lowest calendar bidders, whose bid security shall be returned after the contract has been signed and the performance bond posted.

All contractors found to be ineligible, blacklisted and bankrupt, the Security Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Withdrawal of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award, all contracts shall be governed by the rules and procedures of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), as amended.

The POEA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:
BAC Secretariat
3rd Floor Blue F. Cute Bldg.
Ortigas Avenue corner EDSA
Mandaluyong City
Telefax: (632) 721-0481

Approved by:

(Sgd.) CARLOS C. CARIÑO
Administrator

(FB-May 18, 2011)

Office of the Secretary of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective manufacturers/distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

ITEM DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET for the CONTRACT (ABC)	DATE/TIME		PLACE OF BID SUBMISSION/ OPENING OF BIDS	Place of BID SECURITY
		PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS/ OPENING OF BIDS		
Supply, Delivery and Installation of Audio Visual Equipment and Accessories	PHP4,000,000.00	October 2011 3:00 PM	By 2:00 PM 10:00 AM	Multi-Purpose Room, 2nd Floor, CICT-NEC Building, Carlos P. Garcia Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City	Bonding Company

The complete set of Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat/CICT Administrative Office, Second Floor, CICT-NEC Building, Carlos P. Garcia Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City during regular office hours from Monday to Friday.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the MPC Conference Room, Lower Ground Floor, CICT-NEC Building, Carlos P. Garcia Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The Bidder shall submit their bids and supporting documents, in three (3) copies each, in sealed envelopes as specified in these separate invitation envelopes in the box at the aforementioned address.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat/CICT Administrative Office at telephone numbers 920-0101 local 112 and Telefax No. 920-0110.

CICT reserves the right to reject any bid/any bid from the prospective bidder with grounds and to annul the bidding process, at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) DR. PHILIPS. MARAMA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(FB-May 18, 2011)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Antipolo City

INVITATION TO BID

To All Businessmen of Legal Age, the PHILIPPINE registered corporations or partnership, duly authorized to do business in the Philippines:

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Bidding: Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding: Deadline/ Opening of Bids	Place of Bid Security (Non-refundable)
1. Fuel Purchase	P1,100,000.00	May 23, 2011 9:00 a.m.	June 01, 2011 9:00 a.m.	P 22,000.00
2. Construction of Multipurpose Shed	6,000,000.00	May 23, 2011 9:00 a.m.	June 01, 2011 9:00 a.m.	120,000.00
3. Improvement of Road to Manila Water Source	6,000,000.00	May 23, 2011 9:00 a.m.	June 01, 2011 9:00 a.m.	120,000.00

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the City Bidder Procurement Committee, 2nd Floor, City Hall Building, Antipolo City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from May 18, 2011 to June 01, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bid Documents may be purchased from May 18, 2011 to June 01, 2011 upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of P5,000.00.

The Bidder shall only submit the original of the technical Proposal in one sealed envelope, whereas the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope for delivery to the Bids and Awards Committee.

For more information, please call the Procurement Supplies and Services Division of Telefax No. (632) 696-1554.

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ANTIPOLO reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) DR. MARIO C. ACOSTA, JR.
City Mayor

(FB-May 18, 2011)

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INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Cebu City, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for the above mentioned works. Bids received that exceed the Abc BAC shall be rejected at bid opening. Bidder may bid for one or all items. Late bid shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be made on a per item basis.

Prospective bidders must have completed a similar contract within the last five (5) years from date of submission and received bids with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens / sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 9184 and Section 5 and Annex B of the IRR.

Open competitive bidding will be conducted using the non-discretionary pass/fail criterion, evaluation and post-qualification procedures specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184. Information is also available at www.philgeps.gov.ph or www.cebucity.ph.

Activity	Date and Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	May 9 - June 1, 2011, 8:00 a.m.	Cmgd/D, Division of Cebu City
Pre-Bid Conference	May 13, 2011, 1:30 p.m.	Cmgd/D, Division of Cebu City
Submission and Opening of Bids	June 1, 2011, 10:00 a.m.	Cmgd/D, Division of Cebu City

The Bidding Documents may be requested or purchased at the address previously indicated herein upon accomplishing a bidder's information sheet and payment in cash or a non-refundable fee in the amount of Philippine Pesos (PhP 4,000.00 per item only) to interested bidders. It may be issued at the address at no. P-002-09.

The Bac reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) SALVADOR T. ABRIOD
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent
Bac Chairperson

(PDI-May 18, 2011)

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Cebu City, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for the above mentioned works. Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected at bid opening. Bidder may bid for one or all items. Late bid shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be made on a per item basis.

Prospective bidders must have completed a similar contract within the last five (5) years from date of submission and received bids with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid.

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Activity	Date and Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	May 9 - June 1, 2011, 8:00 a.m.	Cmgd/D, Division of Cebu City
Pre-Bid Conference	May 13, 2011, 1:30 p.m.	Cmgd/D, Division of Cebu City
Submission and Opening of Bids	June 1, 2011, 10:00 a.m.	Cmgd/D, Division of Cebu City

The Bidding Documents may be requested or purchased at the address previously indicated herein upon accomplishing a bidder's information sheet and payment in cash or a non-refundable fee in the amount of Philippine Pesos (PhP 4,000.00 per item only) to interested bidders. It may be issued at the address at no. P-002-09.

The Bac reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) SALVADOR T. ABRIOD
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent
Bac Chairperson

(PDI-May 18, 2011)

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Cebu City, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), now invites bids for the above mentioned works. Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected at bid opening. Bidder may bid for one or all items. Late bid shall be rejected. Evaluation and award shall be made on a per item basis.

Prospective bidders must have completed a similar contract within the last five (5) years from date of submission and received bids with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens / sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 9184 and Section 5 and Annex B of the IRR.

Open competitive bidding will be conducted using the non-discretionary pass/fail criterion, evaluation and post-qualification procedures specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184. Information is also available at www.philgeps.gov.ph or www.cebucity.ph.

Activity	Date and Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	May 9 - June 1, 2011, 8:00 a.m.	Cmgd/D, Division of Cebu City
Pre-Bid Conference	May 13, 2011, 1:30 p.m.	Cmgd/D, Division of Cebu City
Submission and Opening of Bids	June 1, 2011, 10:00 a.m.	Cmgd/D, Division of Cebu City

The Bidding Documents may be requested or purchased at the address previously indicated herein upon accomplishing a bidder's information sheet and payment in cash or a non-refundable fee in the amount of Philippine Pesos (PhP 4,000.00 per item only) to interested bidders. It may be issued at the address at no. P-002-09.

The Bac reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) SALVADOR T. ABRIOD
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent
Bac Chairperson

(PDI-May 18, 2011)

OBITUARIES

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." — Psalm 116:15

Amparo Garcia Celestino

wife of the late Macario T. Celestino

joined her Creator on May 12, 2011 at the age of 84.

She is survived by her children, Nora & Edwin, Annie & Cle, Celia & Elmo, Sylvia & Gil, Mario & Jolmo, Jessica & Jay, Boy & Margy, her brothers and sisters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to everyone who consoled with us and joined us with their presence, sent us flowers, Mass cards and donations, or who, in the absence of their beloved, prayed for Mommy Amapy.

Above all, we thank the Lord for keeping our dearest Mommy Amapy close to Him as she fulfilled her life's calling. Cmadh Say in Your arms and heaven forever.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live though he dies; and whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die." — John 11:25-26

JUANITA SANSANO QUIMBO

peacefully joined our Creator on May 16, 2011 at the age of 91.

She is survived by her children, **Annie** & **Del Villarrua, Nonoy** & **Myla Quimbo, Paquito** & **Cerrie Quimbo, Millie** & **Lito Constantino, Tepton** & **Lester Batacilan, Joey** & **Carlina Quimbo, Shumnie** & **Noel Montero, Lito** (†) and **Leah Quimbo,** grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in the Premier Chapel A, Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Ave, Tanong, Marikina City. Interment will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 4 pm at the Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Ernesto Villatima Bacasmas Sr.

peacefully joined our Lord on May 16, 2011 at the age of 70.

He is survived by his wife Antonia Elenita Bacasmas and their children Ernaldo and Myrna, Ejedjea Mary and Feliciano Dupat Jr., Tomorin Jr. and Leah (†), Edmon and Yolanda, Edwin, Elmer and Advee, Edward and Nona-Anne, Eugene and Valerie, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and relatives.

His remains are at their residence in R.T. Lim, Zamboanga Sibugay.

ALFREDO G. GARCIA

Retiree of Manufacturing United Laboratories, Inc.

peacefully joined his Creator on May 16, 2011 at the age of 55.

His body lies in state at Sta. Monica Chapel, Don Galo, Parañaque City.

Interment to be announced later.

Message of Thanks

On behalf of the

LIMCAOCO-PEÑA Family,

We wish to convey our heartfelt appreciation to all of you, our dear relatives and friends who took time to sympathize with us on departing of our beloved

TERESITA LIMCAOCO-PEÑA.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers, Mass cards, donations, visits and all other expressions of love and support.

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. May the Lord be praised." — Job 1:21

"I am Home"

RIZAL DAZA BOHOL

of Catbalogan, Samar

died in the loving embrace of our Lord on the Feast day of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, 2011 at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Felicidad**, children - Ma. Felicia & Carlos, Jose Jacinto (†), Regina Antonia & Lito, Armando & Regina, step children - Geronimo, Gabriel Antonio, Georgiannah, grandchildren, brothers and sisters - Plaridel, Jacinta, Daniel, Erna, Lucy, Liberty (†), Estela (†), Rosario, Felicidad, and Christy, brothers and sisters in-law, nephews and nieces request the prayers readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapels, Quezon Ave., Quezon City until May 20, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Inquirer Classifieds

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HAS TRANSFERRED TO

CHIMO ROCES (formerly Pioneering Tarmac)
cor. YAGUE & MAGSAYSAY STS. MAKATI CITY

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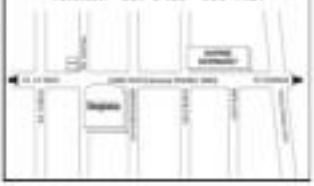

In Loving Memory of
Ricardo Pagsolingan Bapsir Sr.
August 17, 1930 - May 18, 2011

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." — Joshua 23:14

Inquirer Obituaries

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him." —1 Corinthians 2:9

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Sun Life brings 'It's Time!' financial advocacy to the campuses

ADVOCATING BUSINESS CONTINUITY

SUN LIFE Financial Philippines (SLFP) partnered with the De La Salle University (DLSU) Management of Financial Institutions department (MAFIN) for free financial consultations and financial planning seminars dubbed "Personal Financial Planning Session in Green Hills" and "It's Time! Sun Life Financial advisors discussed the benefits of insurance and investment to visitors of the expo. "I was quite surprised that a lot of the students expressed interest in learning more about mutual funds and variable life insurance products. I was also amazed that they have the consciousness about investing and saving for the future at such a young age," shared Kendrick Chua, a volunteer financial advisor.

More than a hundred college students attended the seminar offered by Sun Life. And the results are encouraging. In a survey of participants, 89% said they would prioritize their savings and investment; 75% found the session educational; while 84% would get a life insurance policy once they are able. Sherry Lynn Uy, a student who attended the seminar said that it was a very enlightening experience for her because it gave her a chance to learn how these financial vehicles work in real life situations. More importantly, she was motivated to start investing early for future needs. Michelle Mae Chua, outgoing president of Wellbeloved school, a similar sentiment. "My key learning from the seminar was to grab the opportunity to start investing while we are still young. It really is time."

"It's Time!" is featuring on the week, particularly students, on their the value of insurance and investments will be expressed early on. Being the pioneer of financial literacy in the country, we want to train a new generation of responsible and financial savvy Filipinos," said Sun Life Foundation executive director Maui ann Alferez.

Launched by Sun Life Financial in 2009, It's Time! is the first multimedia financial literacy advocacy in the Philippines. The advocacy aims to inform and empower Filipinos to achieve financial security and is now fully supported by the Sun Life Foundation. Encompassing diffferent media, the campaign continues to inspire Filipinos in future their financial needs and take action to address them. The advocacy has also reaped awards and recognition from numerous organizations for its groundbreaking success.

DLSU-MAFIN provides members a venue in which to share business continuity strategies and provide an instance in addressing and maintaining standards compliance. It also fosters cooperation and coordination among different industries and services in running up-to-date Business Continuity solutions that can sufficiently address these needs. (Photo shows SFLIP vice president for sales and marketing Jonathan Powell (2nd from right) with the rest of the DLSMAF attendees (from left) Abel Caboudi of BDO, Tony Gonzales of Banco Santander Philippines, Cielo Vida of Metrobank, Dida Arriola of Bangko Sentralnang Pilipinas, Sherry Mallapre of the Asian Development Bank, Cherry Ann Cruz of Land Bank of the Philippines, Jaycee Dela Cruz of the Philippine Charter Insurance Corp. and Chito Alma of Citibank.

Bits Clips

Gary V is new brand ambassador for M. Lhuillier

M LHUILLIER welcomes Gary Valenciano as its newest brand ambassador. Gary V. joins fellow artist Ogie Alcasid as brand champion of M. Lhuillier. The combined forces of the 2 of the biggest and brightest superstars in the entertainment industry is a testament of M. Lhuillier's continued commitment to be a beacon of hope to every Filipino who dares to dream of a better and brighter tomorrow. Charles Lhuillier, executive vice president of M. Lhuillier Financial Services Inc./Lhuillier states, "The M. Lhuillier family is thrilled to have both Gary V. and Ogie on board. Both have strong connections with the Filipino people because they undergo with a deeper purpose - and that is, to be of service. In the same way, M. Lhuillier is not just a financial services company, but a bridge connecting Filipinos to their needs."

MDH 13th Annual Post-Graduate Course

THE MANILA Doctors Hospital Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology will hold its 13th Annual Post-Graduate Course entitled "Wholeness of a Woman, Beyond the Basics" on May 19 (Thursday) from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Mezzanine Foundation Hall, Chi Fhon, Manila Doctors Hospital, 667 UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila.

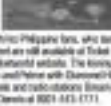
Buy Filipino, buy at Tutuban

MINDSET comes to Filipino handicrafts, tools no further than the Tutuban Mall in Divisoria. The historical landmark is a fitting venue for all the outrageous merchandise you can ever hope to find to spice your home and office, and for gifts and giveaways. Household furnishings come to fantastic selections: baskets, amusing wraps, scrunch mats, cajo items, mat holders, wooden curved items, table curtains and other placemat sets. Fashion accessories made of pandan, bamboo and leather are there to complete your wardrobe. Metal sculptures and paintings from local talents are supported by fabulous retail, with their artworks getting prime space among the myriad displays. Handmade, handcrafted and laboriously created, these native products are truly fantastic and can fit right in when displayed and worn anywhere in the world. Whether decorative or functional, you can never go wrong with organic and natural.

International franchise seminars slated

TOPLINE INC. encourage investors interested in the business of franchising the Filipino international franchise discussions. What, in partnership with FIC Franchise Consultancy, is launching a series of monthly, scheduled seminars which starts at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 4 in the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, May 7, June 25, Aug. 13, Oct. 1, Dec. 1 and Dec. 10. The official venue is at the Mid Center, 804 Minnesota Mansion, 282 Timog Quezon Street, Cubao, Quezon City. For more info, call 913-3946 and 913-3970 or visit www.franchise.ph.

Kenny G to raffle off one of his prized saxophone during concert



MANY OF Kenny G who are watching his May 22 concert at the PICC will get a rare chance to win one of his prized saxophones in a special raffle to be held during his concert. Kenny G will autograph the saxophone and will award the prize to the lucky winner himself. Shippers of the winner to receive Kenny G's CDs will be awarded four raffle tickets each from having Kenny G sign his autograph on the CDs. Kenny G will autograph CDs before and after the PICC concert. Concert goers are thus advised to come to the PICC a little earlier than the 8 p.m. showtime to get to the limited number of CDs for sale. Kenny G. made it a point to also Manila concert to renew the bond he shares with his Philippine fans, who last watched him in concert several years ago. Tickets to the Kenny G concert are still available at Ticket World outlets. Those who may be unable to purchase it or who're going to the Philharmonic will miss The Kenny G. Concert is presented by Smart in cooperation with United Laboratories and Palmer with Diamond Hotel as the official residence. It's also supported by Fax International Channels and radio stations Brown FM, Dreamscape 92.3 FM and Mellow FM. For VIP seating arrangements, call Dennis at 8921-1613-1711.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites [illegible] to participate in the Bidding for the [illegible] as detailed hereunder.

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (P)	CONTRACT DURATION
AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES	Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Agricultural Training Institute Building, San Fernando City, La Union	12 ST Single Motorized Pump Assembly (Gasoline Powered)	2,500,000.00	120 days
		6.5HP Single Motorized Pump Assembly (Gasoline Powered)	2,625,000.00	
		20.5HP Single Motorized Pump Assembly (Gasoline Powered)	8,925,000.00	
		TOTAL	13,500,000.00	

All prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a project within the last 5 years, with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. Bidders shall be subject to post-qualification using the "Passed/Failed" system. Non-compliance of the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall risk disqualification.

All participants subject to Eligibility Requirement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Registration of Bids, Post-Qualification and Source of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	May 18, 2011 (Wed) 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (BAC Office, Capitol Bldg., San Fernando City, La Union)
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	May 20, 2011, 10:00 AM (Provincial Conference Room, Capitol Bldg., San Fernando City, La Union)
3.	Opening of Bids	June 6, 2011, 10:00 AM, (PGO Conference Room, Capitol Bldg., San Fernando City, La Union)
4.	Bid Evaluation	June 6, 2011
5.	Post-qualification	June 14, 2011
6.	Notice of Award	June 14, 2011

Bid Documents will be available upon an irrevocable letter upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer's Center.

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION assumes no responsibility whatsoever to components of indirectly liable for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Hon. JOSE MARIO V. VILLAR
BAC Chairman

Registered pharmacists a must in all drug stores

LUZVIMINDA MUNOZ drugs from their local community outlets usually give very little thought as to what type of personnel work behind the counters. As long as the stock of medicines are available, and so long as the price is within their means, they are content with the service even if they fail to see the presence of a registered pharmacist. But all pharmacy outlets must have a registered pharmacist.

A pharmacist is defined as a health professional who focuses on the patient's drug therapy. In short, he is the drug expert. His expertise lies in how medicines work in the body, how to maximize the benefits and minimize adverse effects of drugs, and how prescription drugs interact with other medications. In a drugstore, he is the last stop for consultation on administering medicines, particularly prescription drugs that only doctors can recommend.

For these reasons, having such an expert is a must in all drugstores, and it is for mandated by law under Republic Act No. 5921, which regulates the practice of pharmacy and other related purposes.

According to Asst. Dr. Estrabon, franchise director of The Generics Pharmacy, a qualified pharmacist provides consumers important counseling on safe and appropriate use of medicines, and compliance with the prescribed drug therapy.

"Counseling is necessary even if it is just a matter of providing the patient or buyer the correct generic name of a particular drug to help our doctor on their cost," she said. "That's why we always make sure we have the right people operating our outlets, including the presence of registered pharmacists in all The Generics Pharmacy outlets."

Estrabon explained that The Generics Pharmacy also ensures business-to-be Customers of Pharmacy Training Course that provides detailed education on all the aspects of operating a pharmacy ranging from communication skills and patient counseling to generic dispensing, blood monitoring, inventory management and over-the-counseling.

These activities ensure that when faced with a TGP personnel, customers get the peace of mind and confidence knowing that they are actually talking with an expert who is ready and able to help them. The presence of a registered pharmacist is the essential part of pursuing its vision to be the most trusted choice when it comes to buying safe, effective and affordable medications. For more information, contact the company at nos. (02)733-3333, (02)712-7777 or (02)927-9999, visit the nearest TGP outlet, or go to www.thegenericspharmacy.com.

ProductFILES

Amazing dryness with Drypers Wee Wee Dry diapers

BABIES CAN now enjoy staying dry with the amazing dryness of Drypers Wee Wee Dry diapers. Drypers is equipped with extensive protection and skin-gentle features that keeps baby at his driest best and free from wee wee redness, making him happy, playful and an adorable darling baby in and day out. Drypers Wee Wee Dry diapers' Maximum Absorbency Tip Dry Core that contains more absorbent particles which locks urine in the diaper, tipping wetness in the pad and away from baby's skin. It spreads the wee wee evenly through the diaper for Least possible Elbow loosening back in the diaper surface. Drypers Wee Wee Dry has an easy to fasten and re-fasten tape that makes checking baby's diaper easy. The new improved Stuff Type is gentle on baby's skin, giving baby an ample protection to keep them comfortable. When its amazing dryness you seek, rediscover middle of it - Drypers is dryness. Available in leading supermarkets nationwide.

A smart upgrade to the simple toilet seat

AMERICAN STANDARD, the world's leading bathroom brand, presents the Smart Washer. The new product is a remarkable, easy way to add greater functionality, convenience and sophisticated elegance to your ordinary toilet. The Smart Washer combines the ease of wash of a bidet with the ergonomic comforts of a modern toilet seat. It is equipped with two nozzles for rear and front washing, easily selectable with a simple lever switch, making it totally hands-free and more hygienic to use than a separate bidet installation. Its ultra-thin design completely makes it ideal for elderly users, persons with disabilities, and even toddlers being potty-trained. The Smart Washer can be easily retrofitted to an existing toilet without requiring professional assistance. In a good three-step-ways, it can be installed right away with just the basic household tools like a screwdriver and wrench. It is definitely cost-smart and modern upgrade that's worth the price. To make this product more even-enticing to have American Standard is giving consumers the chance to enjoy its one Smart Washer with a rebate of P1,000 discount. Buyers must accomplish a Rebate Claim Form and present a copy of their official receipt or cover, regardless of age or brand. Every American Standard dealer to get this discount. The same price-off is also offered to those ordering through a Smart Washer, together with the New Kohler's Hemmeter or Bear Complete III assessments and suites. This promo is valid only up to June 30.

Fruit Magic Lounge offers tuna selections

FRUIT MAGIC Lounge in a concession from every serving only the freshest shakes, smoothies and all-day beverages, to real healthy food offerings. It offers tuna products that are rich in Omega 3 that is good for the heart. Sink your teeth with the mouthwatering generous servings of solid food selections exclusively using Century Tuna products. Among the delectable options are Century Tuna Rellenong Bangus, Century Tuna Lite and mango wraps, Century Bangus and sundried tomato pasta and Century Bangus Spanish Style sandwich. These healthy choices are filling, generous and lights favored - and can be paired with fresh smoothies also available at Fruit Magic. Fruit Magic products with Century Tuna are available in all Fruit Magic Lounge and Fitness First Outlets all over the metro. With fruit magic, staying healthy no more than a fad, but a lifestyle. For inquiries, visit www.fruitmagic.com.ph.

WPPP PHOTO CONGRESS 2011

The Wedding and Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (WPPP), will host its 6th WPPP Photo Congress 2011 on May 29 to 30 at the SMX Megamall. The 2-day event is WPPP's 10th anniversary celebration with seminars, trade shows, photo exhibitions and other activities. The Photo Congress Grand Prix will be awarded in the WPPP Photo Congress. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) William Miranda, The Book owner and manager and Danny Ignacio, WPPP president and photo congress co-chair. Witnessing are (The Shooting, The Book) former treasurer Rachel Leaño Alcasid and Rachel Mascarinas, WPPP treasurer and vice president respectively. For tickets, contact WPPP at tel. nos. 433-4000 or 0917-1458885.

HOME HEALTH CARE AT 1ST PHHC

Home Health Care (HHC) participated in the 1st Philippine Retirement and Healthcare Tourism Congress held recently at the Bulwagang Kalayaan, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Shown in photo are (from left) Angeles Tiaoi Santos, treasurer; Atty. Encarnacion Gutierrez, secretary; Dr. Encarnacion Gutierrez, president; Dr. Antonio Bonoy and Philippine Retirement Authority Executive Director Ulpiano Ortiz. The conference was attended by more than 500 delegates from the Philippines and abroad. Among the guests were Ambassador Ulrich Brandis, Chief of the Embassy of Switzerland in the Philippines; Ambassador Ole Mikkelsen, Ambassador of Denmark;